FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-216
Tuesday
8 November 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-216 *8 November 1988*

CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

8 November Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Full Text' of Sudan-Libyan Unity Charter *[Dubayy AL-BAYAN 2 Nov]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Receives Soviet Ambassador in Tunis *[Algiers VOP]* 6
'Differences' Over PLO Documents Reported *[Dubayy AL-BAYAN 6 Nov]* 6
PNC Secretary on Declaration of State *[MENA]* 6
KYODO Interviews PLO's Qaddumi 6
Abu Sharif on Plots Against Palestinian Leaders *[WAKH]* 7
'Abd Rabbuh on Acceptance of UN Resolutions *[MENA]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Merba Begins Consultations on Forming Government 8
New Government Talks Progress 8
Syrian Vice President Arrives, Met by Merbah 8
Received by Bendjedid *[Damascus]* 8
Strikes, Sit-Ins Continue Despite Settlements 8

Egypt

French Defense Minister Arrives in Cairo 7 Nov 8
Airliner Detained at Nigerian Airport 9
AL-AKHBAR Cited on U.S. Election Campaign 9
U.S. Interests Seen as Governing Policy 9
U.S. Stand on UN Resolution on Israel Denounced 10
Israeli Stand on UN Resolutions Criticized *[AL-AKHBAR 6 Nov]* 10
Pessimism Over Likud Victory 'Unjustified' 11
Shamir Urged To Heed World Public Opinion 11

Libya

Cairo U.S. Military Attache Reportedly Burned 11
Malian Foreign Minister Arrives 7 Nov 12
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Burkina Faso Leader 12
Al-Qadhdhafi, Uganda's Rawlings, Museveni Confer 12
Attend Banquet 12
Editor on 'Spiteful Lies' of U.S. Broadcast 12

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Regrets Inability To Meet Garang 13
Al-Mahdi Briefed on Geneva Peace Talks *[IRNA]* 13

SPLA Confirms Meeting Planned With DUP *[AFP]* 14
State Council Member on Meeting *[Al-Dammam AL-YAWM 4 Nov]* 14
DUP Reportedly Rejects Unity With Libya *[Dubayy AL-BAYAN 2 Nov]* 14
SPLA Battalions Defect to Government Forces 15

Tunisia

Radio Broadcasts Reading of National Charter 15
President Ben Ali Speaks to Chamber of Deputies 19
Syria's Khaddam Arrives, Talks With Baccouche 23
Country Offers To Host Palestinian Government *[Sanaa VOP]* 23

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Intra-Gulf Affairs

GCC Interior Ministers Begin Seventh Session 24
End Session, Issue Statement 24
Saudi Minister on Conference 24

PDRY

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives in Aden *[Damascus]* 25
Conveys Al-Asad Message *[Damascus]* 25

Qatar

Amir Receives Message From PLO's 'Arafat 25
Visiting PRC Official Views Oil Cooperation 25
Meets Finance Minister 25

Saudi Arabia

Paper Cites Foreign Minister on Ties With Iran *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 3 Nov]* 26
Kuwaiti Prime Minister Arrives 5 Nov 26
Makes Statement 26
French Defense Minister Hands Letter to King Fahd 26
Departs 7 Nov 26

United Arab Emirates

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 6 Nov 27
Meets With Under Secretary 27
Sees Rashid 'Abdallah 27
Delivers Khamene'i Message 27
Visits Heir Apparent, Departs 27
Carlucci Statement Said 'Green Light' for Israel 28

IRAQ

Tariq 'Aziz, Perez de Cuellar Exchange Messages 29
INA on Upcoming 'Expert Level' Meetings 29
Fourth Ministerial Meeting Begins in Geneva 29
Session Ends; 'Aziz Speaks 29
'Aziz on Reza'i Statement to Perez de Cuellar 30
Minister Outlines Postwar Information Strategy 30
Joint Committee Meetings With Cuba Begin 2 Nov 31
Joint Committee Minutes Signed 31
Ramadan, Cuban Minister Meet 31
Cuban Delegation Departs 31

ISRAEL

IDF Preparing for Violence During PNC Meeting 32
South Lebanese Army's Lahd Escapes Assassination 32
Further on Parties' Coalition Activities 32
Arabs, Druze Support Jewish Religious Party *[THE JERUSALEM POST 7 Nov]* 33
HA'ARETZ Reviews Peres' Position in Labor Party *[7 Nov]* 33
Labor Party Continues Coalition Negotiations *[THE JERUSALEM POST 7 Nov]* 34
Commentary Reviews Shamir's Situation *[HA'ARETZ 3 Nov]* 35
AL-FAJR Analyzes Results of Elections *[3 Nov]* 37
AL-NAHAR Warns of Election Consequences *[4 Nov]* 37
Dinitz Returns From Moscow, Comments on Talks 38
Strassnoff Notes Provision for Death Penalty 38
IDF Soldier Stabbed To Death; Assailant Killed 38
Rabin: Circumstances Unclear 39
Disturbances, Casualties Reported in Territories 39
25 Injuries Reported Last Week *[DAVAR 6 Nov]* 39
Houses Demolished; 20 Wounded 39
9 Wounded in West Bank 39
Girl Killed, 19 Reported Wounded 39
Curfew on Gaza Camp; Girl Shot 40
3 Wounded by Plastic Bullets 40
IDF Cuts Water Supply to Zayta *[HADASHOT 8 Nov]* 40
West Bank School Closure Set for Extension *[HA'ARETZ 7 Nov]* 40
2 Gaza Strip 'Terrorists' Given Life Sentences 40
Sinyurah To Publish New Arabic-Language Magazine *[THE NATION 8 Nov]* 40
Court Recommends Improvements at Qezi'ot Camp 41
Muslims May Travel by Air to 'Small' Hajj 41

JORDAN

Ministers Express Views on New Economic Measures 42
Finance Minister Explains Steps *[JORDAN TIMES 7 Nov]* 42
Supply, Labor Ministers' Views *[AL-DUSTUR 7 Nov]* 43
Industry Minister on Measures 44
AL-DUSTUR Lauds Ban on Certain Imports *[6 Nov]* 44
Praises Steps Against Violators *[AL-DUSTUR 5 Nov]* 44

LEBANON

Gen Lahd Wounded by Member of Communist Party 46
Suspect Arrested *[VOL]* 46
Communist Party Claims Attempt *[VOL]* 46
Further on 'Culprit' *[Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope]* 46
Resistance Front Statement *[VOM]* 46
'Leftist' Forces on Alert *[AFP]* 47
PNSF Official Escapes Assassination Attempt *[RFL]* 47
'Awn Says He Will Never Accept Syrian Presence *[VOL]* 47
Ja'ja' Comments on Syrian-U.S. Agreement *[RFL]* 47
Junblatt Says PSP Will Not Return to Beirut 48
Junblatt Rejects Partition, 'Christian Canton' 48
Junblatt on Israeli Elections, Al-Qadhdhafi Stand *[VOM]* 48
'Usayran on Partition, Al-Qadhdhafi Remarks *[RFL]* 49
Israeli Gunboat Intercepts Greek Cargo Ship 49

SYRIA

Al-Zu'bi, Dascalescu Hold Official Talks 7 Nov 50

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

AFP Says Soviet Troops Arrive in Jalalabad 51
USSR Envoy Vorontsov Meets With Legislators *[TASS]* 51
Calls for New Talks *[Moscow TV]* 52
Najibullah, Gen Gromov, Vorontsov Speeches 52
Wakil Interviewed on Missiles, Withdrawal 52
BAKHTAR Defends New Weapons for Armed Forces 55
Foreign Ministry Submits Violations Notices 55
113th Notice Handed Over 55
114th Notice Submitted 55
Rebel Commander on Halt in Soviet Withdrawal *[IRNA]* 56
Islamabad Details Recent Mujahidin Operations 56
Base Near Jalalabad Captured 56
Missile Attack on Kabul 56
Operations in Herat, Nangarhar 56
BAKHTAR: 'Extremists' 'Crushed' in Provinces 57
New Rockets Destroy 'Largest' Rebel Ammo Dump 57

Bangladesh

Ershad Greets Gorbachev on Soviet Anniversary 57
Daily on Benazir Bhutto, Pakistani Elections *[SANGBAD 23 Oct]* 57

India

MiG-21 Fighter Plane Crashes; 6 Injured *[AFP]* 58
2 Sikhs Barred From Entering Golden Temple 58
Work To Build Indigenous AWACS System Begins 59
Soviet Firm To Buy Alloy Steel Castings 59
Commentary Lauds Assistance to Maldives 59

Iran

Majlis Speaker Lauds Khomeyni on Free Expression 60
Further on 'Wise' Advice 60
Musavi Says Progress Depends on National Unity 60
Hints Administrative 'Changes' 61
Iraq 'Apparently' Agrees to POW Exchange 61
Velayati on Need for New Plan 62
UN Mediator Eliasson Cited 63
Correspondent Views Talks 63
Appeal to Perez de Cuellar *[KEYHAN 27 Oct]* 64
Commentary on 'Fragile' Cease-Fire 65
Commentary Examines U.S. Presidential Election 65
Spokesman on Soviet Withdrawal From Afghanistan 65
Gas Pipeline Project With USSR To Resume 66
PRC Deputy Minister Continues Tehran Meetings 66
Industrial Cooperation Planned 66
Holds Talks With Mirzadeh 66
Further on Resumption of Talks With Britain 67
Envoy to France on Strengthening Ties 67
Larijani, French Envoy on Toxic Gas Conference 67
Iraq Faces 'Dilemma' 67
Khamene'i Sends Messages to Oman, UAE Leaders 68
Khamene'i Inaugurates Aeronautics University 68
President Praises Peoples' Role in Defense 68
Arms, Spare Parts From DPRK, 'Western Country' *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 6 Nov]* 69
Kurds Capture Iraqi Battalion Headquarters 69

More Outposts Inaugurated on Turkish Border 69
Economic Council Approves Details of 5-Year Plan 69
RESALAT Considers Reconstruction Plans *[27 Oct]* 69

Maldives

Further on Coup Attempt Against President 70
Mercenaries Being Interrogated *[Delhi]* 70
Indian Troops To Extend Stay *[Delhi]* 71
Arms, Ammo Seized in Male *[Delhi]* 71

Pakistan

Saudi Armed Forces Chief Meets President 7 Nov 71
President Attends USSR National Day Reception 71
Ordinance Requires Identity Card at Polls 71

Sri Lanka

LTTE Denies Involvement in Maldives Coup Bid *[AFP]* 71
'Political Prisoners' Escape From Detention Camp *[AFP]* 72
Prison Violence, Colombo Situation Noted 72
Oil Workers' Strike Hits Fuel Supplies *[AFP]* 72
2 Indian Soldiers, 7 'Terrorists' Killed 73

8 November Middle East and South Asia Review

LD0811143388 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Peace Talks

Iran and Iraq have agreed to release a limited number of POW's, IRNA announced 8 November, adding this is the first sign of progress in the deadlocked peace talks. The agency cited a statement by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz announcing his country's willingness to immediately begin repatriating all sick and wounded POW's, adding this follows an Iranian offer to do likewise.

In earlier developments, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told IRNA that the United Nations should come up with new initiatives to break the deadlock. INA reported that Tariq 'Aziz sent a memorandum to the UN secretary general protesting the IRGC commander's recent statement about dispatching further military reinforcements to the fronts, viewing this as an Iranian attempt to create an "atmosphere of aggression." According to Baghdad radio, 'Aziz acknowledged that Iraq has continued to manufacture arms for itself, but called this a "completely different issue."

Iran

Khomeyni on Factions—In a letter cited by IRNA and Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni encouraged scholarly debates over controversial topics but warned rival groups against going to extremes, trying to defame their opponents, or indulging in selfishness. The two main factions will harm Islam if they put their own interests above those of the revolution, he wrote, and neither side must overlook the "ploys of the two colonialist monsters," the United States and USSR. Nevertheless, Khomeyni commended the exchange of "constructive ideas," stating that this should ensure that rivalries are "cleansed of pollution or deviation."

Khomeyni's letter, which was published by JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, was in reply to a letter from a theologian who requested a conclusive judgment by the imam on his stand toward the two diverging ideological orientations in Iran, IRNA noted. However, Khomeyni's reply "approved both and neither," emphasizing instead the need for free expression and unhampered scholarship as the best way forward.

Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Rafsanjani subsequently praised Khomeyni's letter as "fatherly and brotherly advice for those whose difference of opinion sometimes causes public concern," IRNA noted.

Foreign Cooperation—Construction of the USSR-Iran pipeline which was suspended in 1985 will now resume, IRNA announced. The question of resuming gas exports to the Soviet Union will also be studied.

Iran recently received spare parts for fighter planes from a Western country as well as tanks, cannons, and other military equipment from the DPRK, the UAE paper AL-ITTIHAD contended.

Lebanon

South Lebanese Army (SLA) commander General Antoine Lahd suffered "superficial wounds" when a young woman shot him twice with a pistol, the SLA's Voice of Hope radio announced. Lahd was hospitalized immediately but his condition gives "no cause for concern."

His assailant was detained and interrogated, the radio added, citing reports that she belongs to a pro-Syrian leftist organization. The clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio hailed the "heroine" who carried out the attack, noting that she is a member of the Communist Party and the National Resistance Front.

Voice of Lebanon radio disclosed that the assassination attempt occurred in Lahd's Marj 'Uyun house, where the woman had been a "frequent visitor."

In West Beirut, three Syrian soldiers and a PNSF official were wounded in a car-bomb explosion near a Palestinian camp, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

Israel

Arab-Jewish Violence—An IDF corporal was stabbed to death by an Arab at Moshav Massu'a in the Jordan Rift Valley, IDF radio reported, adding that the assailant was shot dead by another IDF soldier. In the West Bank, a 14-year-old Arab girl was killed and nine youths were wounded by IDF gunfire during clashes in the Nabulus area, Jerusalem television disclosed. Clashes in the Gaza Strip also resulted in casualties, including a 9-year-old girl who was shot in the stomach by a plastic bullet, according to Jerusalem radio.

Coalition Prospects—Reporting on the ongoing negotiations on the formation of a government, Jerusalem radio disclosed that two religious parties, SHAS and Degel Hatora, have stipulated that they will not participate in a government led by Yitzhaq Shamir if it does not include the Alignment as well. An Alignment representative cited by the radio revealed that Labor is willing to consider a temporary arrangement with Likud for the formation of a government that would undertake electoral reform. The radio also referred to a proposal by Likud that the leader of Moledet be appointed deputy defense minister in a government led by Shamir.

Tunisia

Presidential and legislative elections will take place on 9 April 1989, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali announced in a speech broadcast by Tunis radio.

Reviewing the changes made since his accession to power, Ben Ali stressed that there is no longer a single political prisoner and there has been an end to executions and banning publications for political reasons. He noted the government will be submitting a bill to parliament to abolish imprisonment with hard labor.

The radio also broadcast the text of a "national charter" signed by leaders of the six recognized political parties, various blue and white collar unions, and the Human Rights League. The charter affirms the need for the state to uphold democracy, human rights, and fundamental liberties like freedom of assembly and freedom to form political parties. It also calls for regular free elections that will ensure majority rule while respecting the rights of the opposition and minorities.

On the issue of Islam, the document urges the state to protect the mosques from political strife and sedition and it expresses support for the "rational tendency of ijtihad" enshrined in the post-independence laws that promoted the status of women.

As for the economy, the charter calls for a "balanced reliance" on the public and private sectors, calling on the state to draw up a long-term development strategy.

Algeria

Internal Situation—Algiers radio disclosed that symbolic work stoppages, strikes, and sit-ins are being held in a number of enterprises to protest "bad management." Meanwhile, APS revealed that FLN activists have rejected the idea of a multiparty sytem.

Foreign Relations—President Chadli Bendjedid received Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who delivered a message from President Hafiz al-Asad, Damascus radio reported. After talks, Khaddam termed Syrian and Algerian views on Arab and world issues "identical."

In other developments, according to the Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH, authorities closed the Polisario's information office in Algiers and suspended the daily broadcast, "Voice of the Sahara."

PLO Affairs

Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, warned that the PLO is closely following activities of Israeli "terrorist" groups believed to be preparing to carry out operations against the Palestinian leadership during the upcoming PNC session, WAKH reported.

In Tunis, 'Arafat received the Soviet ambassador to Tunisia to deliver an oral message to the Soviet leadership on the Palestinian issue in light of the situation in the territories and south Lebanon, Algiers Voice of Palestine radio reported.

Afghanistan

Soviet troops have arrived in Jalalabad to stem the opposition's advance, AFP reported, citing reports that a 60-vehicle convoy arrived 3 November and that further reinforcements were sent over the weekend. Meanwhile, mujahidin forces captured Ghani Khel, one of the largest government bases in Nangarhar Province and considered to be the last line of defense of Jalalabad, according to Islamabad radio. As for the effectiveness of missile strikes by government forces, BAKHTAR contended that the opposition's largest arms and ammunition depots in Nangarhar Province were destroyed by "powerful rockets."

Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil denied in an interview with Kabul radio that the USSR violated that Geneva Accords by equipping the Afghan Armed Forces with modern weapons. For the rebels, a mujahidin leader cited by IRNA said the suspension of the Soviet troop withdrawal proves a lack of goodwill on the Soviets' part and indicates that Moscow is worried over the fate of the "flimsy" Kabul regime.

Resistance leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, in a call for parliamentary elections, declared that the only solution to Afghanistan's current problems is the "unconditional withdrawal" of all Soviet troops and the formation of an elected government, AFP reported. He claimed that 95 percent of the country is under control by the mujahidin and that the fall of Najibullah's government is imminent.

In another development, DPA disclosed that two FRG citizens detained since September on suspicion of espionage have been released.

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Full Text' of Sudan-Libyan Unity Charter

JN0411160288 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
2 Nov 88 p 16

["Full text of the unionist action charter between the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Republic of the Sudan" by Yusuf al-Shanbali from Khartoum]

[Text] I. Bases, Principles, and Aims of the Charter:

With God's help and His success, proceeding from Sudan and Libya's belonging to the Arab and Muslim worlds and Africa, and from faith in comprehensive Arab unity; in honor of the souls of the martyrs who fought joint battles in the cause of freedom and emancipation from all forms of coercion and exploitation; and to reinforce the unionist efforts by the peoples of Libya and Sudan to safeguard the gains of the two popular revolutions: the revolution of the great 1 September and the uprising of April;

Out of faith that the cause of Arab unity is one of revolutionary choice and free popular will putting an end to hesitation and directed toward the unity of the Arab nation; cognizant of the importance of merger unity as a strategic objective to pool the Arab nation's human, political, and economic resources to safeguard its wasted existence, to accomplish development, beat backwardness, and put the Arab nation in its proper place in history that would put an end to all relations of dependency so Arabs may regain their natural effective role in the world;

To bolster the pioneering role of the 1 September Revolution in giving momentum to the Arab nation's unionist action; to emphasize Sudan's faith in Arab unity and its potential role to accomplish it; based on the announcement proclaiming the establishment of people's authority in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and on Sudan's interim constitution urging consolidating popular democratic action;

In practical embodiment of the role dictated by the two countries' geographic position as a bridge linking the Arab East and the Arab Maghreb and the heartland of Africa; to reinforce the struggle of the two peoples on behalf of Arab unity; to deepen longstanding historical ties between them—ties that, in the face of the challenges and events they have experienced—have proven their critical role in achieving victory over forces hostile to Arab, Islamic, and African unity;

Out of a commitment to work for the liberation of Palestine and all of the occupied Arab land and to resist the hegemony of imperialism and foreign influence;

Out of a commitment to the Arab League Charter urging relentless action to realize Arab unity;

Out of faith that Islam enables the Arab and African character to fortify itself with a psychological, spiritual, and material balance that wards off the dangers of deviation and apathy and out of faith that Islam is a creed and practice as well as values glorifying the intellect and urging diligence and work;

Drawing conclusions from the previous unity experience which stresses the need to prepare the Arab popular masses to accept the new transformation which will occur following the establishment of unity and to enlighten them of the way that enables them to defend this structure against all dangers, threats, and setbacks;

Proceeding from the fact that the unionist action charter aims to:

1. Establish the popular democratic society in which despotism, hegemony, and exploitation are terminated;

2. Accomplish an economic, social, and cultural integration in accordance with the provisions of this charter for the purpose of establishing unity between the two countries as a step along the road of comprehensive Arab unity;

3. Preserve the democratic and social popular gains achieved by the struggle of the two countries' peoples;

4. Commitment to confront the Zionist entity and bolster the Palestinian armed struggle to liberate Palestine and the occupied Arab territories;

5. Stand alongside the liberation movements and peoples' struggle for self-determination.

6. Support solidarity among the Islamic peoples and the pioneering role of Islam in boosting their awakening and channeling this awakening toward confronting the new crusade;

7. Abide by the nonaligned policy, advocate world peace and security issues, and work for a just world economic order that achieves a balanced development and enables developing countries to control their resources and wealth and attain economic and social development in accordance with their national options and peoples' interests.

II. The Charter's Institutions:

In implementation of the principles, aims, and bases of the unionist action charter and to guarantee the performance of the responsibilities entailed by it, the political and executive institutions of the unionist action charter between the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Republic of the Sudan shall be formed as follows:

1. The charter's Presidency Council.

2. The charter's Executive Council.

3. The charter's specialized councils.

4. The charter's pan-Arab council.

First: The Presidency Council of the unionist action charter:

The Presidency Council of the unionist action charter consists of the leadership of both countries and enjoys the higher political authority in issuing resolutions related to the implementation of policies of the charter and its institutions as well as the goals of the charter.

The Presidency Council also draws up the policies pertaining to foreign affairs, security, and defense.

The Presidency Council issues resolutions, bylaws, and instructions required to implement the charter's goals and programs and its resolutions are binding for the competent organs in both countries.

The Presidency Council holds at least one session every 6 months. It is chaired periodically by both countries and is held in both capitals on a rotating basis. Extraordinary sessions can be held under emeregency circumstances and at the request of either sides.

Second: The charter's Executive Council:

a. The charter's Executive Council consists of a number of members appointed under a decision by the Presidency Council.

b. The Executive Council prepares the integrational and unionist policies, programs, and plans to implement the charter in the specified areas.

c. It implements the Presidency Council's resolutions in areas mentioned in the charter.

d. Councils specialized in areas determined by the charter stem from the Executive Council.

Third: The specialized councils:

Specialized councils are established under a decision by the Presidency Council as follows:

a. The economic, planning, and development affairs council.

b. The agricultural, animal wealth, and water affairs council.

c. The cultural, informational, and educational affairs council.

d. The health, youth, and social affairs council.

The specialties of the specialized councils:

The specialized councils, especially the following council, implement the goals, programs, and plans of the unionist action charter:

1. The Economic, Planning, and Development Affairs Council:

—Seeks the unification of the economic structure in both countries through the coordination of development plans in both countries.

—Draws up joint programs for economic and social development.

—Coordinates economic, trade, and financial policies to achieve an integration of development plans.

—Draws up a joint policy in the transportation and telecommunications areas.

—Draws up policies to facilitate the movement of capitals and encourages joint investments.

—Establishes bodies and companies to exploit the natural wealth in both countries.

—Draws up joint policy on tariffs. —Works out practical measures to activate trade exchanges including border trade, doing away with customs tariffs on national industries to ensure freedom of movement of goods, capitals, and profits.

—Lays down executive programs to ensure the right of ownership, the movement of citizens, and the practice of economic activity between the two countries.

2. The Agricultural, Animal Wealth, and Water Affairs Council:

—Lays down an agricultural, developmental program to attain self-sufficiency in the area of food in the two countries.

—Lays down practical plans to execute a joint policy in the area of agricultural development and animal wealth.

—Works to develop water resources in the two countries.

—Encourages industries based on agricultural production and develops industries related to agricultural input.

—Develops scientific research in the area of improving agricultural and animal production.

—Oversees joint investment in fisheries.

3. The Cultural, Informational, and Educational Affairs Council:

—Lays down one informational, cultural policy.

—Upgrades the level of education, standardizes and develops and modernizes methods of instruction, and Arabizes higher education.

—Creates joint cultural institutions to preserve Arab, Islamic, and African traditions and revives as well as develops them.

—Develops higher, technical, and technological education as well as increases its applications to serve the aims of development.

—Cooperates in the areas of scientific research, the transfer of technology, and addresses itself to the efforts of scientists and researchers.

—Streamlines educational establishments by drawing up programs for the optimum use of the educational process in the two countries.

—Implements programs of informational and educational-cultural production.

—Coordinates among radio, television, and press establishments and encourages joint productions.

4. The Health, Social, and Religious Affairs Council.

—Works to consolidate and deepen the roots of relations between the two peoples in all spheres to meet the goals of the unionist action charter.

—Devises a complementary policy in the areas of health, social affairs, and youth with a view to enhancing the health, and physical, and psychological standard of the citizens. —Coordinates plans related to the society's therapeutical and preventive health.

—Promotes health services and social care.

—Coordinates policies on insurance and social security; seeks a unification of labor laws, conditions, and employment; and employs manpower in both countries in the best way.

—Coordinates policies related to vocational and technical rehabilitation in various labor and production areas.

Fourth: The charter's Executive Council:

The council consists of no more than 60 members to be equally selected from the Sudanese Constituent Assembly and the members of the General People's Congress in Libya.

The council is specialized in the following:

1. Supervises and controls the performance of the charter's executive institutions.

2. Coordinates legislation related to the implementation of the charter's programs, plans, and policies.

3. Reviews valid laws in both countries and removes any contradictions among them to implement the charter's goals.

Signed:

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great September Revolution in the Socialist People's Libyan Arabh Jamahiriyah

Signed ... [ellipses as published]

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister in the Republic of Sudan Signed ... [as published] Tripoli on 15 Rabi' Awwal, 1398 Hegira, corresponding to 26 October, 1988.

The unionist action charter was prepared by a working group of the Libyan and Sudanese sides. This effort was also endorsed by the signatures of the following members of the group of the two sides:

The Libyan Arab side:

1. Sa'id 'Uraybi Haqranah.

2. Nasr al-Mabruk 'Abdallah.

3. Jum'ah al-Mahdi al-Fazzani, Libya's ambassador to Sudan.

4. 'Isa Ahmad 'Ashur.

5. Salih 'Umar al-Durumi.

The Sudanese side:

1. Aldo Ajo Deng

2. Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman.

3. Mathew Abor.

4. Khalafallah al-Rashid.

5. Mubarak 'Abdallah al-Fadil.

6. 'Uthman Khalid Madwi.

7. Dr 'Abdallah al-Ahmad.

8. 'Abd al-Majid Bashir al-Ahmadi, Sudan's ambassador to Libya.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Receives Soviet Ambassador in Tunis

LD0711212888 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] The brother commander, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], has sent an oral message to the Soviet leadership concerning the overall conditions of the Palestinian issue in light of the recent and current situation both in our occupied land and in the Lebanese south.

This was stated when brother commander Abu 'Ammar received the Soviet ambassador in Tunis yesterday morning. During the meeting, they reviewed the latest developments in the local and international arenas.

The ambassador affirmed the friendly and unchanging stand of the Soviet Union toward the just issue of the Palestinian people in confronting the barbarous acts of Israel against the Palestinian people in Palestinian camps, towns, and villages.

'Differences' Over PLO Documents Reported

JN0711173888 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 6 Nov 88 pp 1, 13

[By Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis]

[Text] AL-BAYAN has learned from Palestinian sources who participated in a meeting of Palestinian leaders in Tunis the night before the last that PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani, since the morning of the day before yesterday, has been involved in working out a draft of the final formula of the political statement to be presented to the extraordinary PNC session to be held in Algiers 6 days later.

The same sources explained that in formulating the political statement, Hurani will depend on specific attitudes raised during the discussions among Palestinian leaders the day before yesterday. Absent from the discussions were 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, secretary general of the Arab Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who arrived in the Tunisian capital yesterday, and representatives of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

The Palestinian sources also revealed differences over the political statement. The PFLP, led by George Habash, has expressed some reservations about it. The sources also pointed to differences over the Palestinian independence document, specifically over the phrase "stemming from Resolution No 181 issued by the United Nations in 1947." Some factions demand this resolution not be discussed because they consider it a political injustice to the Palestinians of that time.

PNC Secretary on Declaration of State

NC0811091588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0843 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—PNC Secretary Muhammad Subayh has emphasized that the basic goal of the PNC emergency meeting, scheduled to begin in Algiers on Saturday, is to strengthen the popular Palestinian uprising in the occupied territory through all means. In an exclusive statement to MENA today, Subayh disclosed that the PNC will decide at the meeting to proclaim an independent Palestinian state in the wake of the disengagement of the administrative and legal links between Jordan and the occupied West Bank.

The PNC secretary pointed out that the PNC is expected to authorize the PLO Central Council to consider the proclamation of a Palestinian government-in-exile and to take all the necessary steps appropriate with the political situation that will arise in the region in the event an international conference for peace is convened.

KYODO Interviews PLO's Qaddumi

OW0611134288 Tokyo KYODO in English 1302 GMT 6 Nov 38

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 6 KYODO—Faruq Qaddumi, the head of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), said in an interview with KYODO news service on Sunday that a declaration of Palestinian independence will be announced at a meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC) scheduled to begin in Algiers Saturday.

"It is of utmost importance to declare our national rights in a declaration of Palestinian indepencence. Whether the declaration is recognized by other nations is only secondary," Qaddumi said in the exclusive interview.

Qaddumi, visiting here for the second time since 1976, said it was not "strange" to declare a proclamation of state for the Palestinians and said "We must fight, not just demand, to attain our national rights."

Qaddumi, however, denied that the issue of establishing an interim government for the Palestinians would be on the agenda at the PNC, the PLO's parliament in exile. He said international circumstances were not mature enough to support the creation of such a ruling body.

As one possible solution to the problem of Palestinians now living in the Israeli-occupied territories, the United Nations could provide protection for the Palestinians and administer the territories until a peaceful solution could be found. He said such conflicts cannot be solved in a matter of "a few years."

He evaluated the results of the Israeli election as "negative" for a peaceful solution in the area. He said recognizing Israel, which he called a terrorist state for its handling of the Palestinian problem, would mean the

"surrender" of the PLO. He repeatedly said it was a "question of to be or not to be" and vowed to continue the fight for the "self-defense" of the Palestinians.

On the purpose of his visit to Japan, Qaddumi said it is "more political than financial." He said he may raise the issue of more assistance from Japan to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, but it will be the last item on the agenda of his talks with Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno, and other politicians he is scheduled to meet.

Qaddumi arrived here from Turkey earlier in the day and will be staying in Japan for a few days before returning to Tunis.

Abu Sharif on Plots Against Palestinian Leaders
JN0711155688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1458 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Tunis, 7 Nov (WAKH)—Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to the PLO Executive Committee chairman, has revealed that the PLO is closely following up the activities of Israeli terrorist groups which have been assigned the task of carrying out terrorist operations against the Palestinian leadership before and during the PNC session.

In statements he made here today, Abu Sharif said that the Palestinian leadership knows what these groups are doing. It also knows what Generals Nasim 'Imran and Zahum Madlin [names as received], officers in Israeli intelligence who have been entrusted with the task of assassinating a number of PLO leaders, are doing.

Bassam Abu Sharif added that the Palestinian leadership will proceed until occupation is done away with and the independent Palestinian state is established no matter how widespread and fascist the Israeli terrorist schemes.

Abu Sharif affirmed that the PNC emergency session will be held at its appointed date, which is 12 November, in Algiers.

'Abd Rabbuh on Acceptance of UN Resolutions
NC0711170488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0911 GMT 29 Oct 88

[Text] Kuwait, 29 Oct (MENA)—Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has stated that UN Security Council Resolution 242 contains positive elements but is, however, insufficient to solve the Palestinian issue.

In a statement today to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, the Palestinian official pointed out that the declaration of "Palestinian independence" will be based on international legitimacy and all UN resolutions dealing with the Palestinian question. It should be recalled that Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh is also assistant secretary general of the DFLP.

Algeria

Merba Begins Consultations on Forming Government

LD0711142688 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Prime Minister Kasdi Merba has begun to implement the task entrusted to him by the president.

In accordance with the constitutional reform, he has begun extensive consultations and talks with various persons to form a new government.

It will be recalled that Part 1 of Article 114 stipulates that the prime minister forms a new government after broad consultations. He then presents the members chosen by him to the president who appoints them.

In accordance with this article and in implementation of the popular will and the phase through which the country is passing, the prime minister is trying [words indistinct] who would be up to the aspirations of the Algerian people to execute the reforms and implement [passage indistinct].

New Government Talks Progress

LD0811094788 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Domestic press sources report that Kasdi Merbah, appointed as prime minister, has made much progress in the broad and intensive consultations he began 3 days ago, aimed at forming a new government. The sources indicate that Kasdi Merbah will complete these consultations today and that he is expected to announce the new government either Wednesday or Thursday.

Syrian Vice President Arrives, Met by Merbah

LD0711131488 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has been in Algeria since this morning on a short visit during which he is to deliver a message to President Chadli Bendjedid from President Hafiz al-Asad.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam was welcomed at Houari Boumediene International Airport by Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah.

Received by Bendjedid

JN0711174888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] At noon today, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid received Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who handed him a letter from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. The meeting was attended by Nasir Qaddur, state minister for foreign affairs.

Khaddam said afterward that he had given President Bendjedid a letter from President Hafiz al-Asad on Arab and world developments. He said: I am delighted to have met President Bendjedid for an exchange of views on a number of issues. We discussed how to coordinate our moves in the face of challenges facing the Arab nation.

Khaddam emphasized that their views on the topics discussed were identical, adding that it is natural that this should be so, since Algeria and Syria have a common view of Arab issues. The vice president arrived in Algiers earlier in the day accompanied by Nasir Qaddur. He was met at the airport by Kasdi Merbah, Algerian prime minister; the Syrian charge d'affairs in Algiers; a number of Algeria's Foreign Ministry officials; and embassy staff.

Strikes, Sit-Ins Continue Despite Settlements

LD0711192288 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Things are happening in the labor movement—symbolic work stoppages, strikes, and sit-ins are being held in a number of enterprises and organizations. The main complaint is bad management and socio-professional problems.

At the Parnez Hospital, the university hospital of the eastern region, the medical corps this morning observed a a half-day work stoppage renewable indefinitely, until the demands of the medical and para-medical corps are met in full. A report on the situation in Parnez and the demands of the workforce are contained in a statement sent to the various bodies concerned. The problem concerns the conditions for patients as well as the working conditions of the medical and para-medical corps. [passage omitted]

Certain labor conflicts have been settled or are being settled. This is the case at the Algiers Main Treasury, where the workers were due to resume work today, after 3 days on strike. An ad hoc commission was set up to take up the socio-professional problems, essentially improving working conditions and pay increases. The secretary general of the Finance Ministry for his part promised that efforts would be made within the law and regulations. [passage omitted]

Egypt

French Defense Minister Arrives in Cairo 7 Nov

NC0711192388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Cairo this evening on a 2-day official visit to Egypt. During his stay, Chevenement will

hold talks with Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, on ways of developing and expanding military cooperation between the two countries.

Upon his arrival at Cairo airport, the French defense minister said that the relations between Egypt and France are long-standing and extremely good. He said that during his visit, he will discuss a number of issues of mutual concern, especially the Gulf war, the Lebanese issue, and the Palestinian problem. He indicated that the views of the two countries on international issues are similar.

Field Marshal Muhammad Abu Ghazalah received the French minister upon his arrival.

Airliner Detained at Nigerian Airport

NC0811133788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1303 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—The Egyptian Foreign Ministry and the Egyptian Embassy in Lagos are making contacts with the aim of securing the release of an Egyptian airliner which has been detained at Nigeria's Kano Airport since last night.

The Boeing 767, Flight 857, carrying 110 passengers, was making the Cairo-Kano-Lagos-Accra-Cairo run when the security forces at Kano Airport arrested a group of transit Nigerian passengers who were hiding narcotics on their bodies.

It should be noted that this is the first time that a plane has been detained for such a reason.

AL-AKHBAR Cited on U.S. Election Campaign

NC0811062588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR expresses its hope that the Arabs will not repeat their mistakes and will abandon their negative stands, which only have encouraged the previous U.S. Governments to despise them.

In its editorial appearing on Tuesday, the paper notes that the Arab vote has been absent in recent U.S. presidential election campaigns, leaving the arena wide open to the supporters of Israel, despite the millions of Arab citizens who have U.S. citizenship and work throughout the United States.

The paper emphasizes the need for the Arabs to unite their ranks to defend their nation's causes. The paper notes that, as U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci admitted during his recent visit to Cairo, the United States realizes that all its vital interests in the region lie in the Arab world.

The paper says that, as usual, the U.S. presidential election campaign has given the candidates a free scope to compete in supporting Israeli stands, in their quest to win the votes of the American Jews.

The paper says that months will elapse before the next U.S. president and his government have a chance to adopt a specific stand on the Middle East issue and, more precisely, the issue of the Palestinian people.

U.S. Interests Seen as Governing Policy

NC0711151988 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "The U.S. Election and the Arab-Israeli Conflict"]

[Text] The U.S. presidential election will be held tomorrow after an intensive campaign battle between Republican Party nominee George Bush and Democratic Party candidate Michael Dukakis that has been going on for months. For over a quarter of a century, the Arab world has shown interest, every 4 years, in the U.S. presidential election results and has waited for the newcomer to examine his character and ascertain what U.S. policy toward the Middle East, or specifically toward the crisis of the Arab-Israeli conflict, will be.

It is well known that the intimate relationship between the United States and Israel makes the U.S. role in the Middle East clear, distinctive, and frequently very obvious. The Americans do not conceal the depth of their relations with Israel and are not ashamed of them. This is a policy based on strong foundations of mutual interests which are not subject to any one person's whim, or the desires of an institution or a group of individuals. Those who talk exaggeratedly of the Zionist pressure groups inside the United States and their influence on the course of U.S. policy simplify facts to the extent of damaging an objective analysis of U.S. foreign policy.

It is sufficient to cite only two examples to clarify the fact that Washington runs its Middle East policy solely in accordance with its own interests, regardless of its commitments to Israel in some cases. We all remember how former U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower intervened in the wake of the tripartite aggression in 1956 and ordered Israel to withdraw completely from Sinai and return the area to Egypt.

We all remember how the Israeli Cabinet at that time submitted to the U.S. order without argument, because U.S. interests at that sensitive period were trying to find their way in the Arab world. This was represented in what came to be called the Eisenhower Doctrine, an attempt to fill the vacuum in the Middle East. Likewise, we all remember how the United States intervened after the October 1973 war and succeeded in imposing Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. This occurred after Washington

realized that the growth of Arab military power together with the use of oil against Western interests might lead to the overturning of the balance of power in favor of the Arabs.

Hence we realize that it is U.S. interests that determine its moves in the region, and when the United States senses any real threat to its interests not merely empty and ringing rhetoric, it immediately turns to the party in whom it perceives the ability to maintain these interests.

In fact, when the United States deals with Israel, it deals with a living single unit that also acts in accordance with its interest regardless of other considerations. If, at any given moment, Israel perceives that its interests are safe with a power other than the United States, it will not hesitate for a minute to deal with the new power. As the political adage goes, there are neither permanent friendships nor permanent enimities, but permanent interests.

As far as the Arabs are concerned, the situation is totally different. The Arabs are one nation when it comes to impressive speeches, but in political fact they are 100 peoples, nations, and sects. This fragmentation destroys any hope of their being seen as an influential force. Consequently, Arab influence on the international scene is zero at numerous decisive moments that require a unanimous Arab stand.

What we would like to assert is that Bush is no different from Dukakis, Reagan, Carter, or any other former President. They all are and have been U.S. Presidents who seek to safeguard U.S. interests.

If the Arabs truly desire to deal sincerely with other parties, they must act as one nation and not as a group with diverse ideas, interests, and objectives. Hence, the Arabs must have a moment of truth with themselves before they urge the world to support their causes.

U.S. Stand on UN Resolution on Israel Denounced

NC0811061888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2208 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM denounces the U.S. objection to the resolution issued by the UN General Assembly condemning Israel for its bestial suppressive actions against the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The resolution was adopted by an overwhelming majority of votes and the abstention of 16 states. The paper says that the U.S. opposition to the resolution cannot be reasonably justified by anyone.

In its Tuesday commentary, the paper notes that the U.S. representative's description of the resolution as unbalanced because it condemns Israel and not the violence committed by the other party involves a gross falsification of the facts. The paper asks: What violence can be attributed to the groups of youths who have long suffered from occupation and could find nothing but stones to throw from afar? The paper also asks: How can one compare the violence of the oppressed who are helpless with the violence of the dominant tyrant who has everything and imposes his oppression by all deadly means?

The paper expresses its astonishment at the U.S. justification which says that the United States does not approve of the continuation of the current situation and calls for a solution through direct negotiations. What solution is possible as long as the oppressor is left to his own devices and only moves toward "the solution" of the uprising by all bloody methods?

Israeli Stand on UN Resolutions Criticized

JN0711212688 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 6 Nov 88 p 5

[Editorial: "How Long Will Israel Disregard the International Community?"]

[Text] By a majority of 130 votes to 2, with 16 abstentions, the UN General Assembly has issued a resolution condemning Israeli practices in the occupied Palestinian territories as well as Tel Aviv's continued disregard of Security Council resolutions. The resolution also reaffirms that everything Israel is doing during the period of occupation will not change the legal Status of the occupied territories.

This resolution—which comes at a time when the results of the recent Israeli elections have revealed that the extremist and fanatic elements still have the upper hand in Israeli society—is not the first and will not be the last of its kind. It is only a chain in a lengthy series throughout 40 years, the whole age of this state that is almost unique among the world's states in disregarding and ridiculing all resolutions issued by the United Nations and Security Council. Moreover, this state often assails the United Nations, which comprises almost all the world's states, although Israel owes its very existence to a resolution issued by this organization in 1947.

Israel has persistently accused the United Nations of bias against it whenever the United Nations issues a resolution condemning its behavior and violations of all international or human laws and norms. This is a strange accusation, because no mind by any logic can conceive that 130 states, which constitute more than 80 percent of the members of the United Nations, which represents the whole international community, have agreed on hostility to Israel through the hundreds of resolutions that have been issued since this racist state came into existence.

Given that all these resolutions could not convince the Tel Aviv rulers to yield to international law and follow civilized human behavior in dealing with both the Arab world and residents of the occupied territories, the states that issue resolutions and constitute the overwhelming majority of the world's states should search for other means to secure respect for their resolutions and a

response to their repeated calls. These calls demand respecting the rights of peoples under occupation to regain both their freedom and sovereignty over their territory.

Pessimism Over Likud Victory 'Unjustified'

NC0411153288 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Mamduh Isma'il commentary: "Excessive Pessimism After the Israeli Elections Is Unjustified]

[Text] An objective analysis of the timing and outcome of the Al-'Aqabah tripartite summit held on 22 October between President Mubarak, the Jordanian monarch, and Yasir 'Arafat, upon an initiative of the Egyptian political leadership, will confirm that this summit took all possibilities into consideration, including Shamir's victory in the elections. The best confirmation of this is that the conferees at the summit established the broad lines of the Arab and Palestinian stands as well as that of future action. Following Likud's victory, certain Arab and international mass media have been overly pessimistic with regard to the peaceful political option for the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Such pessimism is unjustified because Israel does not hold all of the strings. Israel is just a party in confrontation with the Arab Palestinian party, in addition to other regional and international parties capable of pulling strings in accordance with the prevailing law of international relations, which is dependent to a certain extent on each parties' persuasive power.

Accordingly, the concept of joint Arab-Palestinian action in the present and future stages must be built on the following bases:

First, the uprising in the occupied Arab territories must be supported. The uprising, which has become an overwhelming popular revolution despite Israel's escalation of suppressive measures, asserts the Palestinian peoples' rejection of the occupation and wish to arrive at a political solution. This will compel any Israeli leadership, regardless of its extremism, to resort to peaceful means;

Second, the severance of legal and administrative links between Jordan and the occupied territories now obliges the PLO to take practical steps to push the peace march forward. This may be facilitated by the meetings of the upcoming PNC session in the form of a specific program, which leaves no room for the other party's intransigence, whether in connection with the proclamation of the Palestinian state or the UN resolutions. This also can take the form of a decision which asserts the distinctive relation between the PLO and Jordan, particularly since the Al-'Aqabah summit has laid the foundation for such distinctiveness;

Third, the international unanimity which exists on the need to hold an international peace conference on the Middle East constitutes a trend which the Arabs can invigorate in relation to the results of the Israeli elections. The lack of Arab political influence in the international arena can weaken this trend vis-a-vis Israeli intransigence; and

Fourth, the principle of balance, which governs everything in life, ensures that there is neither absolute power nor absolute weakness. Therefore, no matter how arrogant Shamir may seem to be in his statements, he will not be able to do whatever he likes. History shows us that even the superpowers occasionally have failed to achieve their goals. Israel undoubtedly realizes that the clusters of wrath are concealed in the hearts and, if they explode, their sparks will spread everywhere.

The Arab countries must take into account the time factor in confronting the quickening pace of events. If Egypt's destiny makes it the ring around which all the Arabs meet, it always will be ready with action and initiatives to regain the Palestinian right, which we are all eager to regain, so that peace and stability may be available to all.

Shamir Urged To Heed World Public Opinion

NC0511072388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has called on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to listen to the world public opinion's view of the Palestinian issue as it is voiced through the UN rostrum. It says this view about the grave developments in the occupied Arab territories is unanimous and condemns Israel's frightening practices that violate human rights and conflict with the Geneva conventions on the administration of occupied territories.

The paper stresses in its editorial today that if Shamir heeded the world view of the Palestinian issue he would be convinced of the world's rejection of Israeli occupation and condemnation of the ironfist policy which Shamir has pledged to his allies to continue to intensify and sharpen.

AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses to Shamir that Israel's interests and a future of living within secure borders will not be achieved except through a just peace that is established on reasonable bases, foremost of which is the abandonment of the occupied territories to the Palestinian people.

Libya

Cairo U.S. Military Attache Reportedly Burned

LD0711211588 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] The military attache at the U.S. Embassy in the Egyptian capital was severely burned by an explosion at his house in Al-Jizah. The news media in the Egyptian capital says the U.S. military attache was taken to the hospital in critical condition.

AL-WAFD newspaper said the explosion caused a big fire which incinerated the contents of the house and cracked its walls.

Since the beginning of the year, a number of U.S. Embassy personnel, and the CIA regional director and his assistant have been subjected to a series of armed attacks, during which a number of them have been injured.

Malian Foreign Minister Arrives 7 Nov
LD0711200588 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1810 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 7 Nov (JANA)—Malian Foreign Minister Modibo Keita arrived this evening in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Burkina Faso Leader
LD0811080288 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Excerpt] The brother leader of the revolution received Captain Blaise Compaore, chairman of the popular front in the Burkina Faso Jamahiriyah, who arrived yesterday in Sirte. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi, Uganda's Rawlings, Museveni Confer
LD0711174288 Tripoli JANA in English 1447 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth 7, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—A closed meeting was held between the leader of the revolution and President Museveni of Uganda and Flight Captain [rank as received] J. Rawlings, chairman of the Provisional Defence Council of Ghana.

The meeting lasted around two and a half hours.

Attend Banquet
LD0711174388 Tripoli JANA in English 1449 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth 7, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution gave a banquet yesterday to President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and Flight Captain J. Rawlings, chairman of the Provisional National Defence Council of Ghana and their two accompanying delegations.

Present at this banquet were the secretary and members of the secretariat of the General People's Congress, members of the General People's Committee, the secretary of the General People's Congress of the Municipality of Sirte Gulf and the ambassador of Uganda and Ghana accredited to great Al-Jamahiriyah.

Editor on 'Spiteful Lies' of U.S. Broadcast
LD0611200088 Tripoli JANA in English 1743 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Quotation marks as received throughout]

[Tripoli, November 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Voice of America, which expresses the opinion of the American Administration, broadcast a spiteful commentary, full of lies fabrications and misleading facts, against the Libyan Arab people.

The editor of international afairs in JANA commented on these spiteful lies broadcast by the American Administration with mad hysteria. He said the American Administration lost its sense and went mad as soon as the American television CNN broadcast the statement of the leader of the revolution which totally exposed the American Administration and showed its hated and ugly nature before 45 million audience who receive this channel in the USA, the Far East and Europe.

The American Administration rushed its urgent orders and directives to its official media organs spearheaded by the Voice of America radio for the purpose to fabricate lies and claims against the Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah and against its internationalist revolutionary leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in a desperate and failing attempt to contain the serious and deep effects caused by the statement of the leader exposing the sad and painful daily suffering by the American citizen as a result of the practices of his evil and mad administration.

The editor asserted: We in great Jamahiriyah look with contempt and down at these spiteful lies which the American Administration persisted in broadcasting. We view these with the same eye we looked with at the aborted barbaric, spiteful and mad aggression through which the American Administration with its strategic warplanes, specialised for world wars, tried to silence the strongest revolutionary voice in the world, which rejects American domination, expose its plans, instigate for confronting and resisting it calling for freedom all freedom for peoples and death, total death to their enemies spearheaded by the terrorist American Administration.

The editor added: The leader of the revolution exposed, in his statement to CNN, clearly and unequivocally the historic adventure in which the American people were thrown to by its administration linking the destiny of America to the racist Zionist entity in occupied Palestine and sacrificing the fundamental and strategic interests of the American people in submission to a Zionist influence which is growing daily in America and which became in total control of the American decision, making it meaningless and without any content relevant to the interest of the Americans.

Hence the American decision became a clear expression of the terrifying Zionist terrorist plans which will be the cause of a nuclear third world war in which total destruciton to the American people and world peoples will be the fate. The editor of international affairs reaffirmed we are determined to continue exposing the reality of the American Administration until the American people are able to rid themselves from this evil and mad administration such as the Reagan Administration and until that people are able to relinquish totally their ties with the racist Zionism and its destructive policies.

He said: We the American people [as received] until it recovers its basic human rights violated daily by the Reagan Administration millions of times by unleashing the companies of exploitation and private sector and monopolies to rob the American worker from his effort, denying the American people the right to self determination whose sons were led to their death in Vietnam, Lebanon, Grenada and Great Jamahiriyah without the people being able to say no to the madness of the American Administration.

We are with the American people until the millions of homeless in the United States obtain their right to shelter in lieu of sewage pipes, underground stations and pavements which they were forced to live in by the American Administration. We are with the American people until the right of every American to social security is met in accordance with its natural right endowed to him by Allah.

We are with the nation of Red Indians, with the blacks and other minorities in America against the racist and immoral war of genocide launched, and still, by the terrorist administration against them.

We are with the American youths until they eliminate the drugs and poisons promoted by the American Administration in America to keep the youths unaware and preoccupied to think about their real problems. We are with the Americans until the abolition of death penalty throughout the United States in which the organs of the U.S. Administration became experts and technicians in its application including injections, poisonous gas and electric chairs and shock.

We are with them until they are able to remove the threat endangering their environment as a result of the U.S. Administration and its play of planting thousands of poisonous chemical factories, the deployment of thousands of dangerous nuclear missiles, thousands of military centres for the production of means of biological destruction including the terror of the 21st century (AIDS) which is claiming tens of thousands of American lives.

The editor of international affairs said: America must know that we have in our possession documents and evidence which were not published before on further American scandals in the world from Panama to Iran.

The editor concluded his commentary by asserting: The American people must know that the Libyan Arab people, the free and sovereign people who owns its power, wealth and weapons and consolidated its freedom with the proclamation of the greater green charter of human rights in the era of the masses, stands with it in its calamity caused by the dictatorial and mad administration so as to be able, with other world peoples, to enter the era of the masses, the era of the freedoms in which there is no superior decisions and no injustice nor tyranny.

But where the decision belongs to the people through which it expresses its interests and hopes to live in highest movement of human society. The masses society. [sentence as received]

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Regrets Inability To Meet Garang

EA0711174088 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi announced that the Ugandan president, Yoweri Museveni, has communicated to him the consent of rebel leader John Garang to meet him this month.

His excellency said he regrets he was unable to meet Garang. He pointed out he is awaiting the outcome of Mr al-Mirghani's meeting with Garang on 11 November in Addis Ababa and the new positions that might result from the meeting as to how serious the rebellion might be toward the issue of peace.

The prime minister pointed out he has informed the council of the head of state about security developments in southern Sudan and made it clear the security situation has improved a great deal in the south. In this respect he said that he had discussed with the head of the state the consultations between the Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party on the unionists' initiative to meet the rebel movement.

Mr Sadiq al-Mahdi also confirmed that the Foreign Ministry has prepared a legal memorandum on the Elemi Triangle and submitted it to the Kenyan ambassador to Sudan asking him to deliver it to Kenyan authorities. He said the memo demands that the Kenyan Government hand over the Elemi Triangle to Sudan.

Al-Mahdi Briefed on Geneva Peace Talks

LD0711225988 Tehran IRNA in English 1821 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—In a meeting with Iranian charge d'affaires in Khartoum, Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi appreciated the Islamic Republic's relief aid for Sudan's flood victims.

Ne'matollah Qaderi also discussed with Al-Mahdi Tehran-Khartoum ties, international developments, and the Iran-Iraq peace talks for implementation of U.N. Resolution 598.

No efforts should be spared for enforcing Resolution 598 and achieving real peace in the region, said the Sudanese premier.

SPLA Confirms Meeting Planned With DUP

NC0411182788 Paris AFP in English 1819 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] Addis Ababa, Nov 4 (AFP)—A senior official of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army confirmed here Friday that a meeting had been planned between SPLA leader John Garang and the head of one of Sudan's governing coalition parties, Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani.

The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), led by Mr. al-Mirghani, had announced in Khartoum Wednesday that the two men were scheduled to meet in the Ethiopian capital on November 11.

Lam Akol, a field commander of the SPLA, confirmed Friday that an agreement in principle had been reached for a November session, following two meetings between rebel representatives and the DUP in Addis Ababa during August and last month.

Mr. Lam described the DUP as "an influential force" in Sudanese political life, and said talks between it and the SPLA were significant in that the party had been absent from a March 1986 rebel/government conference in the Ethiopian town of Koka Dam.

Several Sudanese political parties and trade unions, including Khartoum's main coalition partner, the Ummah Party, signed a Koka Dam Declaration spelling out the conditions for a ceasefire and for a future national consitutional conference.

The terms also included safe passage to Khartoum for an SPLA delegation, the scrapping of Islamic 'sharia' law, the abrogation of Sudan's military pacts with foreign powers, and the participation of all political forces in the consitutional conference.

The DUP and the SPLA have since expressed a convergence of views on the questions of war and peace in Sudan, Mr Lam said.

State Council Member on Meeting

JN0511212588 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 4 Nov 88 p 1

[Samir 'Ali dispatch from Khartoum]

[Text] Dr Pacifico Lado Lolik, Sudanese State Council member, has ruled out the possibility of convening the National Constitutional Conference this year. He pointed out that the remaining days of 1988 are not enough to prepare for and agree on the date and meetings of the subcommittees.

In an exclusive statement to AL-YAWM, Dr Pacifico Lado Lolik has welcomed the agreement reached by the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] with the rebel movement. He said such dialogues will help increase people's understanding of the presented issues and problems. He pointed out the DUP's move will lead to the completion of the missing part of the Koka Dam agreement, especially since, for the first time, the DUP held a direct meeting with the movement.

To save time, he called on parties not to delay their contacts with the movement, especially since Sudan needs an immediate and quick peace. He also called on them not to negotiate with the movement individually, pointing out the disagreement is not between the movement and any of the Sudanese parties. He said the problem is between the movement and all parties. He pointed out that the National Constitutional Conference will include all Sudanese political forces.

Answering a question on the reasons behind the failure of the mediation by former Nigerian President Obasanjo, he denied Obasanjo has failed in his mediation between the Sudanese Government and the rebel movement. He said that through his shuttle trips between Khartoum and Addis Ababa and his conveying of letters and opinions between the government and the movement, Obasanjo had succeeded in diagnosing the problems and summing up the points of differences. He aimed to hold a preliminary meeting between Al-Sadiq and Garang in one of the European capitals. However, the problems facing the government then and its instability have prevented this.

On conclusion of his statement, Dr Pacifico Lado Lolik praised the Saudi aid to Sudan. He expressed his personal appreciation and that of the Sudanese people for their brothers in the Kingdom [of Saudi Arabia] for supporting them during crises. He said the Kingdom's history is full of humanitarian stands toward their brothers in Sudan and that the Kingdom became the symbol of cooperation with and support for Sudan.

DUP Reportedly Rejects Unity With Libya

JN0411191888 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 2 Nov 88 p 19

[Text] Khartoum, AL-BAYAN— Following a discussion by its Political Bureau that lasted until dawn yesterday, the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], led by Al-Mirghani, decided to reject the unity plan with Libya.

Muhammad 'Abd al-Jawad, DUP Political Bureau member and member of the committee chosen to draft the rejection statement which also included Al-Tum Muhammad al-Tum, former information minister, and Ahmad Sa'd 'Umar, minister of state for Republican Palace affairs, has stated that the DUP has welcomed the general features of the plan within the framework of achieving full Arab unity.

However, it rejected the structures reached 2 days ago by two committees from Libya and Sudan to establish unity between the two states based on the fact that the civil war circumstances, disasters, and economic conditions in Sudan do not encourage the establishment of such unity.

'Abd al-Jawad denied reports that appeared in the newspaper AL-ADWA' stating that the DUP decided to withdraw its ministers from the government if the Al-Ummah Party and the Islamic Front, which support the unity, continue in the same direction.

He said the subject will be discussed by the Political Bureau if this determination were confirmed or if practical steps to achieve unity were taken.

SPLA Battalions Defect to Government Forces

EA0611174788 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1340 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] First, Lieutenant Colonel (Gawig Wal), commander of Mut Battalion of the SPLA forces, has joined the Anya Nya II forces. Naturally this is a great victory for Anya Nya II, for all officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers, and for our brothers in the Sudanese Armed Forces. All this is attributable to the fact that we always talk about peace.

Lt Col (Gawig Wal), commander of Mut Battalion, has joined with all his forces in the area, that is, the island area. These people have joined in (Tamryal), to be precise, in Akobo District. They are at present being warmly received by Anya Nya II forces. They direct their call to all their brothers to return and to know that they arrived peacefully and that those who originally had wanted to come along with them but were afraid of being killed are told that they arrived peacefully and that they must try to come. [music]

We have received the following statement from the operations area in the island area: Captain (Garkot Wane) together with all of the 104th and 105th Battalions have joined our brothers in the island area with all their weapons. They have now been received by Lieutenant Colonel (Peter Gadet) in the operations area.

Brothers and sisters in the south and all sons of Sudan, we hope our brothers in the 104th and 105th Battalions, under the command of Capt (Garkot Wane) and Lt Col (Gawig Wal), commander of Mut Battalion, will live with us peacefully and stand beside us against the traitors and mercenaries.

This talk is now directed at all SPLA forces, that in Anya Nya II and the Armed Forces we receive anyone who puts down his arms or takes up arms against SPLA designs and the communist designs made by other states. [music]

Brothers and sisters in the south and all sons of Sudan, we have received the following: The force that joined the ranks of Anya Nya II, particularly from the 104th and 105th Battalions, compromise more than 5,000 in addition to the force of Commander (Gawig Wal) which joined in Akobo District.

That is why we say the SPLA has now become quite weak. All those who are in the SPLA must know that Sudan has become strong and that the Sudanese Army and Anya Nya II forces will work to purge the south completely. From here we tell all the people, officers and noncommissioned officers, and soldiers that your joining the Anya Nya II forces has saved your lives, because you are the sons of Sudan.

To those who are still misled in Equatoria and in other areas, we tell them that surrender or peace does not mean a defeat; rather it means you have found the right path and that you have come to see the interest of your country. We salute our brothers in the 105th and 104th Battalions under the command of Capt (Garkot Wane) and we salute Lt Col (Gawig Wal), commander of Mut Battalion of the John Garang forces, who joined the ranks of Anya Nya II.

Tunisia

Radio Broadcasts Reading of National Charter

LD0711163288 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0909 GMT 7 Nov 88

[National Charter—read by unidentified presidential adviser during a live relay from the Presidential Palace in Carthage]

[Text] Inspired by our heritage and ancient history; out of loyalty to our innocent martyrs and everyone who struggled and sacrificed for the dignity of Tunisia and its people and to liberate the country from colonialism and subjugation; in appreciation of the men of the uprising and reform and of everyone who worked and struggled to establish a republic and a state of institutions and law securing freedom and progress; to implement the principles of the 7 November [date President Ben Ali assumed power] statement, which expresses the people's aspirations to secure an honorable developed, life which includes democracy, a multiparty system, the people's sovereignty and the rule of law; and in appreciation of our historic responsibility at this critical turning point for our country; we the representatives of political parties and social and professional organizations, meeting on the occasion of the 1st anniversary of the 7 November change, approve this National Charter and commit ourselves to be guided by it, to adhere to its ethics and rules, and to support its principles and aims.

We consider it a mutual contract for us which will gather Tunisians together and unite their voices, especially during this transitional period in our history, in which

we are trying to consolidate democracy and support the rule of law, recognizing that we need to have more than a minimum of harmony and conciliation.

As we commit ourselves to the establishment of a tradition of honest competition and to consecrate the right to acceptable and legitimate differences—which does not mean sedition and division—we declare that our ultimate aim is to consolidate the pillars of the state—the state of all Tunisians—in its capacity as a means for achieving the aspirations of our people and mobilizing our abilities and all our human and natural resources. This will consolidate the status of Tunisia in the world and fulfill our aspirations to contribute to human civilization. It will also consolidate the security and restore the historic initiative of our Arab Maghreb and Arab nation, and will restore the ability to contribute to and guide our Islamic civilization.

As we understand the critical points of the change and their importance in general, and as we understand the great difficulties facing our country in this particular stage, we consider it one of our most important duties to declare that a collection of principles concerning the identity of the Tunisian people, the basics of the political regime, the foundations and aims of development, and Tunisia's international relations should remain the subject of unanimity among all Tunisians.

The identity of our people is a distinguished Arab and Islamic one, whose roots go back to a long past full of glorious phases. Our people look forward to facing up to the challenges of the time.

Our country's position in the region, which was the birthplace of man's greatest civilizations, has qualified our people throughout history to contribute to human civilization and gave man the ability to renew and invent. Carthage was one of the two greatest powers in the old world. Our people are proud of the genius of Hannibal, who was as heroic as Jugurtha. Tunisia, from which originated great campaigns to spread Islamic Arab civilization in the Arab Maghreb, north Mediterranean, and Africa, is proud of the geniuses to whom it has given birth, such as Imam Sahnun, Ibn Khaldoun and Kheireddine the reformer.

Therefore, Tunisia has always been committed to our Arab and Islamic character, as part of the Arab homeland and Islamic nation. The Arabic language spread among its population and centuries ago became the language for speaking, writing, and culture. Islam spread among its population, without being torn between sects and faiths. The national group is called on to support the Arabic language to make it the language of dealing, administration, and education.

It is necessary to open ourselves to other languages and civilization, especially the languages of science and technology. However, it is evident that a national culture cannot be developed without a national language. In this field, it is imperative that we should avoid the estrangement of the elite from the masses, because this could lead to the sterility of the elite and the isolation of the masses from modern times.

Arabization is a confirmed civilized requirement. It is one of the most important guarantees for making modernization a popular gain and making it an integrated part of the public mentality. It is imperative to pursue development of the national language and push it forward so that it is able to effectively shoulder the issues of science and technology and modern creative thinking and so that the national language will be able to contribute to human civilization in a worthy manner.

The Tunisian state protects the sanctity of the forgiving Islamic values and works according to their guidance so that Islam will become a source of inspiration and pride, which is open to all peoples' concerns, current issues, and modernization.

Tunisia will remain, as it was, a center of Islamic radiation, a minaret of science and ijtihad, and a source renewal and continuation of the vanguard roles of Kairouan and Zeitouna.

Our thinkers should follow the example of the men of the uprising and reform who had the honor of carrying out a qualitative change which severed the connections with the era of decline and deterioration and paved the way for the coming generations to progress with the times and gain modern knowledge. It prepared a solid base for progress, social advancement, and a developed vital civilized society, to which the institutions of Sadikiyah and Khaldouniya in particular have contributed. One of the most important fruits of this movement was the call for the progress of women.

The personal statute, and the complementing laws, came after independence to ratify a collection of reforms, including banning polygamy, giving women the right to marry as they choose as soon as they come of age, equality with men in seeking divorce and its proceeding with it. These reforms are aimed at liberating women and pushing their status forward in response to an old and original call in our country, which is based on a firm base of Ijtihad according to the aims of jurisprudence, and which is a witness to the vitality of Islam and to its response to the requirements of the times and current development.

The Tunisian state should protect this rational tendency of ijtihad, and work toward making ijtihad and rationalism have a clear effect on the education programs. It should protect activities of religious institutions and the media.

The uprising and reform in Tunisia were not restricted to religious Ijtihad and the call for progress with the times. It went beyond that, to opposing absolute rule, and calling for rule restricted by law. Since the last century,

Tunisia has had a vanguard role in issuing a constitution that regulates political life. The Tunisian people struggled for two mutually dependent and interlinked aims: liberating the homeland from foreign occupation and establishing a modern state that relies on law and receives its legitimacy from the people.

Therefore, as soon as the Tunisian people achieved independence, the Republic was declared, and a constitution was issued which specifies that the sovereignty is for the people. It is to be achieved through free elections and the regime is to be a republican one. The Constitution ratifies the separation of authorities and guarantees the independence of the courts, human rights, and basic liberties.

However, the one-party system, diminution of the role of institutions, personification of the regime, and autocracy were all practices in contradiction of the Constitution and were the origin of numerous crises.

The 7 November 1987 statement put an end to the excess and abuse, and restored the vital continuity of the aims and purposes of the uprising and reform movement. The statement responded to the demands and sacrifices of the strugglers and to the Tunisians' aspirations for freedom, sovereignty, justice, and the wish to adhere to the principles of democracy and human rights.

Human rights demand the preservation of individuals' security, including securing his freedom and dignity, which means banning torture and physical punishment, and abandoning all kinds of arbitrary measures, which should not be practiced by the state, groups, or individuals. Human rights also require securing freedom of opinion, freedom of expression, freedom of the press, freedom to publish, and the freedom of belief.

Protecting man's basic liberties requires the consolidation of the values of forgiveness, the abandonment of all aspects of extremism and violence, and noninterference in others' beliefs their personal behavior, or its interpretations. This is the ensure that religion retains practices that enrich it. Therefore, it is one of the most important duties to protect the mosques from political strife and sedition, so that the mosques remain for the worship of God alone.

The state is dutybound to secure other basic liberties, such as the freedom of assembly and the freedom to form political societies and parties, provided that these liberties are practiced legally. The state may not restrict these liberties unless it is for ensuring the bases of democratic society, public security, liberties, freedom of others, and guarding against loyalty to foreign countries

The principle of equality is not less important than the principle of freedom. The principle concerns equality between all citizens, men and women, without discrimination on the basis of religion, color, belief, or political affiliation. Democracy is based on the existence of several opinions and organizations, and it furnishes the requirements for competing for government, and demands commitment to the wishes of the people, which are expressed in regular free elections. From these elections the majority will legitimately shoulder the responsibilities of the government. It is necessary, however, to respect the opposite opinion and the rights of the minorities.

The state is the state of all Tunisians, whatever their opinions, and however their differences of opinion result in separating them. The state receives its power from Tunisians gathering around it, from the citizens' feelings that they want to protect the state's institutions and that they are proud to be part of the homeland.

The political definition of all defensive institutions and forces of all kinds is a necessary condition for the preservation of democracy, the continuation of the civilian state, and the avoidance of crises and violence. The political parties and social and professional organizations are the backbone of the civilian society, and their mission is to educate the citizens and to contribute to educate their political behavior and raise their level of understanding of modern issues and requirements of the future. They do not replace the state institutions or rise up to their level.

Respecting the bases of democratic action in managing the state and respecting the behavior of political, social, and cultural organizations is the guarantee of justice and stability, which helps the state in carrying out its duties. At the forefront of this is the serious action for the economic and social development of the country.

The just and comprehensive development is the ultimate aim of the Tunisian people's struggle and of state policy. Even if Tunisia has limited resources, it has a store of talent which has allowed our country to play a distinguished role in the Mediterranean basin. It receives this talent from its geographic position, from the harmony and homogeneity of its people and their administrative tradition and thirst for science and knowledge.

Since its independence, Tunisia has achieved significant steps on the road toward development, and in spite of the crises, Tunisia today has a sufficient ability to plan and implement, and in this respect it has important experiments and numerous achievements. The Tunisian people, however, are still in real need for more solidarity to face the challenges of development, to secure the basic needs of the citizen, and to complete the severance of the links with the era of backwardness and subjugation.

To secure the continuity and permanence of democracy, we have to deal with our people's day-to-day issues, and to secure an honorable living for the citizen who secures his legitimate right to get his basic needs: sufficient food, respectable housing, education, culture, health, and employment. There is no way to achieve our goals in comprehensive development except by reconciling ourselves to work, to work properly, and to adhere to the

ethics of discipline, accuracy, and quick implementation. Therefore, our educational, cultural, and information policies are particularly invited to teach our children to love work and plant the spirit of dedication and sacrifice in their souls.

The consolidation of our national identity, the creation of the incentives for initiative and creativity, the ability to absorb the new beneficial things without any complexes, the achievement of our requirements in comprehensive development, and the planting of values of freedom, justice, equality, and fraternity are completely linked to a comprehensive development of our national culture and a revision of its substance. The new culture for which we aspire is a culture which is deeply rooted in our civilized heritage, especially in the ijtihadi rational Arab and Islamic heritage.

It is open to the gifts of human thinking in general, and it is also deeply embodied in its modern world and absorbs the discoveries of science and technology. The new culture, which we need, is the one that underlines the human ability to change his present through perseverance and organization, and which honors handicraft, spreads perceptive optimism in the future, and consolidates the spirit of belonging to the whole human race against the forces dangering its existence and destiny.

Therefore, the national group is invited to concentrate on culture as a basic dimension of the comprehensive development. This should be exercised through securing the freedom of expression and providing the conditions and means of creativity. The extensive participation by the popular masses in defining the aims and means of development and also the fair distribution of the fruits of production are two basic conditions for the success of development and for the establishment of correct social relations free of tension.

Such relations depend on numerous conditions, among which are fairness in distributing the sacrifices among the various sections of society; spreading the spirit of national solidarity, which is removed from narrow sectarian interests; and avoiding all aspects of squandering and over-indulgence. Citizens are invited to accurately obey the tax laws as a sacred duty, the violation of which is considered a violation of the rights of all society and a weakening of the spirit of citizenship. Our administration and the state institutions are invited to be an example of dedication to the public interest and preserving the gains of the people.

Development requires, in particular, increasing production, improving its quality, and giving special attention to agriculture, which requires a mobilization of efforts, so that we achieve development in rural areas and food sufficiency. This could be achieved by modernizing the means of production and using the most advanced technology.

A balanced reliance on the public sector, which shoulders a basic role in the major industries and vital services, and the private sector, by which national groups are able to exploit private domestic capital and to benefit from the activities of entrepreneurs and their ability to invest and manage is needed.

There should be fairness in distributing production among sides and sectors, by giving priority to the pockets of poverty and the deprived, and by improving the standard of living of workers and employees so that they get their fair and legitimate share of the results of development. Winning the battle of development is closely linked to the ability of Tunisians to overcome whatever separates them and to the creation of an atmosphere of national solidarity which allows conciliation among all sides to overcome this difficult phase.

The signatories are unanimous that this requires everyone, whether he is a worker or [word indistinct], to understand the gravity of the situation, which makes it imperative to rationalize methods of production and management in institutions; revealing all the facts about their situation and explaining all their aspects, even if they are technical, in a free honest dialogue, so that all sides will know the situation and accept the necessary sacrifices with conviction and willingness.

The Tunisian state is invited to draw up a long-term development strategy, sufficient for mobilizing the ability of the Tunisian people and their complete resources on the basis of conviction and commitment. This is aimed at ending subjugation and achieving a qualitative step forward with the participation of the intellectual elite and all social groups and political parties.

Tunisia's external relations should be based on a national consensus among all Tunisians, and should be an accurate translation of the identity of the Tunisian people and their struggle to support truth, justice, and human rights. The Tunisian people were the first to revive the call for Arab Maghreb unity as a step toward comprehensive Arab unity, and to support the cause of the Palestinian people by supporting their struggle for their legitimate rights, to regain their land, and achieve self-determination and establish an independent state.

The Tunisian people also responded to the struggles of the African and Asian peoples and all other peoples for their legitimate right to self-determination. The Tunisian people share the aspiration of the peoples and progressive forces of the world to establish a just international system which can secure a permanent peace, as the means for the human race to achieve progress and avoid the damages of war and destruction, and to secure human rights and spread the spirit of solidarity among all peoples.

The state has the right to adopt the necessary measures and initiatives to speed up the establishment of the Arab Maghreb and to create the suitable atmosphere for this.

It should support the Arab League and pursue the development of the league's methods of action to serve the solidarity and unity of the Arab peoples for the sake of progress and undertaking our common civilizing mission and to achieve collective Arab security.

The state works consolidate the ties of Islamic fraternity in a way which achieves dignity and impregnability of the Islamic states. The state supports the OAU, and also pursues the strengthening of cooperative relations with the African and Mediterranean countries within the framework of mutual interests, serving the cause of peace and progress, and developing the dialogue among civilizations for the benefit of the whole human race.

The Tunisians insist on the independence of their country's decision. They are committed to the nonalignment principles. In general, the Tunisian state pursues consolidating the international cooperation for development within the framework of the UN and other international organizations by defending human rights and establishing an international community governed by peace and justice.

Our country's independence is the guarantee of our progress and development in all fields, and is our contribution to human civilization. The Tunisian people, who were plagued by colonialism and who presented numerous number of its sons as a price for freedom, fully understand the value of independence, freedom, sovereignty and stresses the duty of preserving those values.

The signatories of this Charter consider themselves trustees of the most valuable gains of the people's struggle during modern history. At the forefront of their responsibilities the signatories put the preservation of Tunisia's independence and Tunisians' freedom of its people. Included in this responsibility is the duty to defend and protect them from any threat or violation so that Tunisia remains proud, free, and impregnable.

Peace be upon you.

[The announcer reads the following names as signatories to the charter:

Mr. Abdelrrahim Zouari for the Constitutional Democratic Rally.

Mr. Ahmed Mestiri for the Democratic Socialist Movement.

Mr. Mohamed Harmal for the Tunisian Communist Party.

Mr. Mohamed Ben Haj Amor for the Party of National Unity.

Mr. Mounir Beji for the Social and Progressive Party.

Mr. Ahmed Najib Chedli for the Socialist and Progressive Rally.

Mr. Habib Teliba for the National Syndicate Movement.

Mr. Hedi Jelali for the Tunisian Union of Trade and Industry.

Mr. Tawfik Esseid for the National Union of Tunisian Farmers.

Mrs. Naziha Mazhoud for the Tunisian Union National Union.

Mr. Mohamed Charki for the Tunisian League of Human Rights.

Mr. Sadok Ben Jamaa for the Tunisian Union of Architects.

Mr. Mansour Chetti for the Tunisian Union of Lawyers.

Mr. Hachemi Ayari for the Doctors Syndicate.

Mrs. Aziza Ouahchi for the Pharmacists Syndicate.

Mr. Nourddine Labhiri, whose affiliation is unspecified.]

President Ben Ali Speaks to Chamber of Deputies

LD0711185788 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1447 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Speech by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali given 7 November in the Chamber of Deputies in Tunis on the occasion of the 1st anniversary of the 7 November Movement—live]

[Text] Mr Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies; honorable deputies; citizens:

On this day 1 year ago from this rostrum we announced to our people the Declaration of Change and Reform, the principles of which were the inspiration of our cultural values and heritage of struggle and our people's preoccupations and aspirations. Today we meet on the first anniversary of the November transformation to evaluate our march and to ascertain the landmarks of the path which we have begun to follow with the support and backing of all our people to build the future and consolidate the glory and invincibility of Tunisia.

There is no need to return to the dangers which used to threaten the country. That was a phase in Tunisia's history which lasted for a length of time and weakened the country; it caused our country to miss many opportunities. The partial, fabricated, and improvised solutions have failed to deal with the problems in fact such solutions further complicated problems in addition to generating a feeling of despair. But at any rate, that phase that has ended, praise be to God.

Our people are anxious to turn a painful and regrettable page of our past for good—the page of the power struggle and the struggle for succession. The long struggle resulted in the emergence of forces, which were suspect in formation and relations. These forces used to wait for the decisive moment to steal power from legitimate forces disregarding the people and their will in the process.

Mr Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies; honourable deputies; citizens;

I need not outline to you today everything we have achieved in 1 year along the path of reconciliation between the state and society and everything we have

achieved to lay the foundation of the tradition of dialogue and tolerance and the concentration of democracy in society. But I think it suffices to recall the most prominent political measures we have taken to provide the legal framework for civilized dealings between individuals and groups, such as amending the Constitution, enacting the law on political parties, and revising of the press law.

The most important thing that we should refer to is that in Tunisia today there is no longer a single political prisoner—irrespective of his political afiliation. [applause]. For the first time ever in the modern history of Tunisia, a whole year has passed without a book being banned or a newspaper confiscated because of its view or a Tunisian being detained because of his ideologies and convictions.

For the first time in the history of modern Tunisia a whole year has passed without the death sentence being carried out. [applause]. Our country has suffered enough fear and intimidation as a result of the death sentences in the not too distant past.

In this same vein, I have decided that the government should submit to the Chamber of Deputies a bill to abolish imprisonment with hard labor; this is in addition to the decree which was issued defining the prisoners' rights as well as duties. Such decisions rightly represent a gamble on the future, which we all should inevitably win.

Such decisions place on us all a heavy responsibility, which we all assume out of our optimism in our people and their awareness as well as their kind heartedness and tolerance. We would like to state categorically that our people cannot at all accept the exploitation of democracy, public freedoms, and human rights for motives completely unconnected with the public interest.

Mr Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, honorable deputies; male and female citizens, out of our concern to guarantee our march in this decisive turn of our history, we have called upon all political and social forces and all ideological inclination to agree upon a national charter, which will be a contract of honor between these forces that would deepen and realize the orientations of the 7 November Movement. We have managed, thanks to all parties's readiness and high nationalism, to draft such a charter. This morning we celebrated its announcement.

Stemming from the same standpoint as our call for this national charter, we have allowed national cadres to shoulder responsibilities at the state organs regardless of their political affiliations. We are asking the youth of this country as well as its young elite and highly qualified people to shoulder responsibility in a new and a sound atmosphere. We cannot, however, dispense with the former officials' experience and expertise. Therefore, they can proceed and provide the best service as consultants and expertise away from struggle, and in an endeavour to avoid and revive the differences of the past and their subsequent seditions.

We would like to establish a political system on democratic and pluralist bases and we have made big steps along this path; however, we are still only at the beginning. What we need before anything else is that everybody should discern the difficulties which we are facing so as he might abandon his doubts and skepticism. Do not hurry events, a matter which might lead to a reversal of this experience which has promoted the prestige of this country and restablished it among other nations.

The idea behind all our initiatives in all spheres was to revive the citizen's pride and all Tunisians' sense of honor in their country proceeding from the fact that Tunisia is a homeland for us all and a trust in our hands which we have inherited from our fathers and forefathers which we should develop, consolidate, and leave to our sons.

The feeling of citizenship will only be consolidated by bolstering the state's legitimacy which is embodied in impregnable and respected constitutional institutions representing the people's will and by establishing a just and independent judiciary. Nobody can doubt its honesty and success, by respecting the rights of the human being and citizens and the guaranteeing of basic democratic freedoms.

We have managed to make great headway with regard to human rights. I do not have to recall them. I only have to reassert here what we are trying to achieve now or in the future. In this respect I thank the United Nations and the Arab Organization for Human Rights for choosing Tunis as the venue for establishing an Arab-African League of Human Rights, which will be only the third one in the world.

The state whose foundations we are trying to establish is a democratic state which derives its legitimacy from the people. The master of sovereignty is involved in fair and free elections, and this state aims at deepening real authority.

From this platform of your respected house, I am announcing that early presidential and legislative elections will take place on 9 April 1989, on the occasion of one of the most important occasions in the history of our national struggle—when all the people called for exercising its sovereignty through a Tunisian parliament. [applause]

We have also decided to review the structure and composition of provincial councils to turn them into regional councils for development which will have larger executive powers. Therefore, once municipal elections are

over, we will have laid down firm and strong foundations for a democratic choice and entrusted our people with the responsibility of protecting and defending this choice.

To enhance the judicial authority, and to grant it a suitable position in a modern state, we have decided to establish a committee which will review the basic law of judges, and submit to us practical proposals in this connection. We have also decided to review the structure of the Higher Council of Justice and increase the number of its elected members. We are determined that the state will remain a state of law forever and that the law remains above everybody. We are determined that those who look after the state remain above suspicion and become an example to all citizens. [applause]

Nobody can be above the law, regardless of his official status. There is not room for the exploitations of influence, favoritism, and nepotism or for the unlawful accumulation of wealth. [applause] Stemming from our keen interest in clarity and openness, our conviction in the necessity for the media to be credible and to cope with the technical advancement in the field of communications; and the need for the media to carry out its mission with optimum success and effectiveness, we have decided to set up a Supreme Council for Communications.

This council will examine in depth the components of our policy in this field in a manner that will satisfy the citizen's right to truthful and honest information based on freedom of opinion and multiplicity of thought. Out of our belief that the school should bring up its sons on virtuous morality and the love of work and rooting deeply in them our Arab-Islamic identity, we have embarked on drastically and comprehensively reforming the education system. This reform is being based on wide consultation, getting the largest number of the national groupings involved along with the educators and specialists.

Within this context we have decided to start consolidating the basic school system [nidham al-madrasa al-asasiyah] beginning in the coming school year. That way we can ensure that our sons will have no less than 9 uninterrupted years of schooling, during which the negative aspects of existing system—namely the huge number of early interruptions—will fade out.

Due to our concern with improving the standards, we have decided to make Arabic the language for teaching science at all degrees. We have also decided to reinforce scientific and technological education by generalizing scientific and practical education during the 9 years of the basic school term. We have reestablished the Supreme Council for Higher Education and Scientific Research.

This council will be invited to express its opinion in the major questions and in the legislative framework of this reform project, which we will present to your esteemed chamber of Deputies; esteemed deputies, citizens, ladies, and gentlemen; what we have achieved in terms of national reconciliation and the inspiration of trust and security and placing the country on the course of democracy and multiplicity, was not so much an objective in itself as it was a prerequisite for providing favorable conditions for tackling the various national issues, especially the question of social and economic development and the challenges it poses and the basic reforms it requires.

The acute crisis which the country had faced showed that our economoy, after 30 years of independence, had not acquired the adequate structural strength to enable it to face the difficulties affecting it and hindering its growth. Facing this crisis, which was aggravated by the weather conditions, we have hastened to deal with the situation by taking a number of urgent financial, tax, and banking measures in the interest of various sectors.

The aim of these measures is to contain the crisis and give a fresh impetus to the economic cycle as well as to check the phenomenon of unemployment, which remains our major preoccupation, as we believe that work is not only a means of subsistance but an essential prerequisite for the dignity of man and the completeness of his citizenship and [word indistinct] to cherish his land.

Despite the weakness of the revenues and the pressures exerted on the budget, we have been anxious to absorb a great part of the additional job applications and have given most of our attention to the holders of higher degrees. In the same vein, we have given a new breath to regional development, particularly in the less fortunate areas. For this purpose, we have earmarked additional funds in excess of 40 million dinars. The volume of the funds earmarked for regional development for 1989 will amount to about 300 billion dinars, while this figure did not exceed 116 million in 1988.

Our hope is that this effort will facilitate the introduction of real dynamism in the regions, especially those which suffer hardships more than others. Out of our concern for the development work to stem from the base, we have decided to entrust the regional councils which will be created with the task of administering their own budgets. These budgets will be made up of the funds earmarked by the state budget for regional projects and of these councils' additional revenues.

Thus the regions will be able to define their own priorities, to supervise the implementation of their own programs as from the beginning of 1989, and get rid of the long routine work in their dealings. By this measure we have sought to spread the spirit of responsibility without which there can be no democracy. We regard these reforms as a gamble. The regions have to prove their capability to win it by (?defining) their own economic and social targets and by preparing suitable ground for enabling the country to lay down correct foundations, guaranteeing a strong structure for our economy with which it can confront all emergency difficulties and crises.

This will not be possible save within the framework of a complete strategy, coordinated from the sector's point of view, which all officials in various spheres will participate in drawing up. Out of our feeling for the necessity of overcoming the circumstantial measures, despite their importance, we have taken the initiative in submitting this important dossier and have invited a select group of university academics to participate in this work. We are open to all views, and constructive, sincere proposals.

Once again, the state has proved that it is treaty the issue of development seriously. This framework contains the new, practical, and comprehensive measures which will come into practice as from today, to give a big impetus to investment, curb production costs, contain prices, and alleviate the costs of institutions, which would enable a consolidation of employment openings. My hope is that all sides will value this determined and important state effort, and that businessmen will respond to it proving that they deserve this effort, and benefiting the national community, including the state itself.

Mr Speaker, deputies, ladies and gentlemen, we have before us important and decisive issues which have great consequences for the present and future of the country, particularly during this time when materials have become scarce, the need and ambitions of all people have increased, and in which protectionist trends have increased on the international arena. How can we adapt to the pressures of a demographic development and realize the minimum level of economic growth? How can we achieve more regional development in light of a better balance?

How can we materialize, within a realistic scope, the necessary reforms in education, administration, and taxation, while guaranteeing the necessary coordination among them? How can we adapt to the caution required by the issue of debts and external balances and the need to utilize investment to create more employment opportunities? These issues, while they require a long-term vision, also need to be tackled in a practical way, related to reality and away from abstract theories.

This leads me to stress once again an important matter, which concerns me personally: The problems that we are facing are not always related to the availability of capabilities and subsidies only. They are also related to long procedures and routine which usually cause a delay in the completion of projects while exhausting available capabilities.

My request to you is that all sincere efforts and determination should be devoted to studying these issues and to take them seriously, because they are issues worthy of every Tunisian's enthusiasm, high national spirit, and because the future of our own country and sons is linked to these issues. Once again I want to draw your attention to some of the phenomena which hinder the progress of change and make its path harder.

At the forefront of these phenomena is the attitude of waiting—I previously pointed out that change is not a gift to be given but a joint daily effort. All those who believe in it should discard waiting to take the initiative in supporting our efforts, irrespective of their personal position. [applause]

We want everyone to realize that we want nothing other than loyalty to Tunisia and faithfulness to the people [applause].

The second phenomenon is the administration's slowness. I had also pointed out that the administration is the country's mirror. The citizen's verdict on the state, its establishments and system results from his verdict on the state's administration. Generally, irritating administrative procedures, which in most sectors consist of lengthy, interlinked and contradictory measures—and which sometimes they also result in regrettable (?behavior) by cadres and officials—represent obstacles which are no less important than scarce resources.

These administrative procedures do not help free initiative to stimulate investment so that more goods can be produced and more work places established for our compatriots. We are totally convinced that work cannot regain its position in the society by through the development and progress unless a sound social climate is established in the country—a social climate based on social peace and commitment by all to the country's higher interest, free from selfish, factional and narrow views and interests.

In this framework we helped trade unionists to turn over a new leaf and abandon the negative past, and to look forward to the future within a framework of brotherhood and solidarity. We made sure that they participated in all national actions, we worked for the return of those who were dismissed from public sectors for trade unionist reasons. In this connection we have come long way up to now.

The third phenomenon is related to our vision of work. It everyone's duty to see work as having a social and modern value. Our people like to work and are serious, and they are capable of more and greater achievements, matching the phase of change and guaranteeing success and safety.

Mr Speaker, respected deputies, ladies and gentlemen, a balanced and coherent internal policy is most likely to enhance external policy. In this respect our country has resumed its role confidently. It recovered its credibility and ability to act. We have defined various aspects of our external policy; we have listed our priorities, dictated by reality in our country, its civilized way of life, and its country's interests.

We reintroduced clarity in our relations with our brothers and friends; we worked to consolidate bilateral and international cooperation; we put great importance on

the Maghreb region to achieve in unity, on the basis of common interests and in response our people's aspirations. We have also recovered our country's Arab position, contributing to the common Arab action in all aspects. We strongly stressed our support for the just Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people, who made the Arab nation proud through the uprising. We will continue to support its revolution and endorse and back its legitimate leadership, no matter how great the price and the sacrifices. [applause]

We have consolidated the bridges of contacts and cooperation with Islamic, African, Mediterranean, and nonaligned countries. We have pledged our friendship and consolidated our support to the causes of right and justice, in the forefront of which is the problem of Nambia and the peoples of South Africa. Thanks to this new orientation our country has gained credibility and respect which will promote its interest, its impregnability, and its development, enabling it to take the initiatives which might be necessitated by its ideals and noble aims.

Mr Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, honourable deputies, citizens, respect for morality is a duty binding everyone. Our honorable prophet, Muhammad, may God's peace, benediction, and blessing be upon him, was sent to enhance good ethics. The state has to play a major role in this respect; it should always shoulder its responsibilities. Organizations and clubs also have a role to play to enhance the spirit of responsibility and defend public ethics and well-mannered behaviour. The family should also play a major role; mothers are the first schools as far as this is concerned. Women, therefore, should be up to this task and prove their worthiness, given the rights with they have gained, and their ability to perform their social duty. [applause]

We have in our civilized legacy and in our noble religion an inexhaustible source of ideals which are the energy for what we are trying to achieve to gain our future. Islam has been our refuge in our confrontation with challenges and our impregnable fortress in all our battle for survival as a people and as a civilization. Our religion is one of forgiveness and interpretation [ijtihad]. Our theologists, therefore, should go hand in hand with time and achievments of technology and progress, which will bring them to the level of Islam's openness on human problems. To give the necessary effectiveness to our care for Islam we have decided to set up a state secretariat in charge of religious affairs as well as of religious sanctities and institutions. [applause]

Mr Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, we want to include the 7 November changes within the long march of our people's struggle for dignity and prestige, and to ensure that the movement which sprang up will contribute toward the consolidation of the untiring state of law and institutions at a level that meets the aspirations and hopes of our people and of our youth.

We hope to render every Tunisian concerned about the challenges facing the homeland, striving to shape his country in the best way, promoting the cleanliness of its environment, the beauty of its cities and villages, the quality of its products and services, so that every Tunisian can be proud of his country and shout out loudly: Long live Tunisia. [applause]

I want nothing but reform, as much as I possible, and I ask guidance from God on Whom I depend and Him ask to judge. God has told the truth. Thank you. [applause]

Syria's Khaddam Arrives, Talks With Baccouche

LD0811133888 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche met this afternoon at the government palace in Qasabah with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who arrived this morning in Tunisia. He will convey a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. [passage omitted]

Country Offers To Host Palestinian Government

EA0511201588 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has congratulated his brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic of Tunisia, on the first anniversary of the glorious 7 November.

Brother Abu 'Ammar sent a congratulatory message to President Ben Ali. [passage omitted]

Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has announced that Tunisia is prepared to be the seat of the coming Palestinian government if that government is announced during the Palestinian National Council meeting scheduled for 12 November in Algeria.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali said: Tunisia, the official headquarters of the PLO, is ready to provide all means of support to the Palestinian cause.

He added in a communique published today in Paris that Tunisia always supports the Palestinian choices at government level or in any form.

Intra-Gulf Affairs

GCC Interior Ministers Begin Seventh Session

LD0711143688 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Riyadh, 7 Nov (SPA)—At noon today GCC interior ministers began their seventh session at the GCC General Secretariat under the chairmanship of Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. 'Abdullah Ya'qub Bisharah, GCC secretary general, has said that the seventh meeting of the GCC interior ministers will study all recommendations made by the various committees on cooperation and coordination among GCC Interior Ministries regarding movement, security, criminal investigations, combatting drugs, and other security matters.

In a statement to SPA, he stressed that the meeting has special importance because it comes before the ninth summit of GCC leaders in Bahrain. He pointed out that the ministers will also consider recent issues, including the Iran-Iraq cease-fire, general regional issues, and coordination among member states for the sake of unity in confronting terrorism. He expressed hope that the decisions of the meeting will contribute to more security and stability in the region.

Asked about the security stategy adopted by the Higher Council in its recent session, the secretary general said that security strategy is a long-term aim of GCC states. He pointed out that the phases of implementation will have their share of study and discussion.

End Session, Issue Statement

LD0711223788 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1837 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 7 Nov (SPA)—Their highnesses and excellencies the GCC interior ministers ended their seventh meeting this evening under the chairmanship of Interior Minister His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz at the GCC General Secretariat Headquarters in Riyadh. [passage omitted]

Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz gave the floor to Mr 'Abdallah Bisharah, the GCC secretary general, to read the press statement issued by the seventh meeting of the GCC Interior Ministers, the text of which follows:

Their highness and their excellencies the GCC interior ministers held their seventh meeting in Riyadh on Monday 7 November under the chairmanship of Saudi Interior Minister His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

The ministers reviewed the recommendations of the technical committee which is composed of the ministries' under secretaries at its meeting held on 23-24 October 1988. The ministers' believe in the reinforcement of cooperation, in the intensification of contacts, and increasing coordination. Out of a desire to realize further steps in the sphere of standardizing laws and bringing them as close as possible, the ministers have approved these recommendations which reflect the keen interest of the states in exerting more efforts to realize the objectives set out by their majesties the leaders of the council's countries.

The ministers also reviewed the security situation in light of recent developments and expressed their satisfaction at the level of cooperation between the member states in the sphere of security affairs. Realizing the critical nature of the current period, the requirements of coordination, and the necessity for vigilance and caution in order to maintain security, stability, and to ensure a solid internal front, the ministers stressed the need to intensify contacts and consultations in order to establish a firm basis of security and to protect the pillars of stability in conformity with the principle upheld by the member states—namely, security is the basis for prosperity and progress.

The ministers expressed their great appreciation and gratitude to His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the interior minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for the warm hospitality, excellent efforts, and organization which characterized this meeting.

Saudi Minister on Conference

LD0711213888 Kuwait KUNA in English 2020 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Riyadh, Nov 7 (KUNA)—Saudi Minister of Interior Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Monday noted that the ceasefire of the Gulf war "hopefully" would be of positive effect on security in the region.

Speaking to reporters following the closed doors talks of the GCC interior ministers this evening, chairman of the 7th conference added that the security agreement issue is still being discussed. He expressed hope that the ministers would finalize a draft agreement on this topic in the near future.

Prince Nayif said that the ministers have discussed security matters in the region in general and that "points of view were identical."

He noted that the ministers will meet again tonight to continue discussions of the agenda.

Regarding security of embassies of the six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council abroad following the recent assasination of the Saudi ambassador to Ankara, Prince Nayif said "this topic is of great concern."

On drugs trafficking, Prince Nayif noted that the conferees agree on setting a unified program to combat narcotics and are following the matter through a joint effort.

PDRY

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives in Aden

JN0411141188 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Aden—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Aden from Sanaa today. He was received at Aden International Airport by PDRY Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

In a statement on his arrival, Al-Shar' said that he carries a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, YSP secretary general, and Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium in the PDRY. The message deals with Arab conditions, developments in the Lebanese arena, and means to bolster ties of brotherhood between the two fraternal countries. [passage omitted]

Conveys Al-Asad Message

JN0411200488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' conveyed a messsage today to the PDRY leaders from President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with the Arab situation and developments in the Lebanese arena. During two meetings with 'Ali Salim al-Bid, YSP secretary general in the PDRY; and Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium in the PDRY, Al-Shar' conveyed President al-Asad's message.

The two meetings were attended by Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali. Views were identical on the subjects discussed. They also reviewed relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to promote them in various areas.

Qatar

Amir Receives Message From PLO's 'Arafat

JN0711124888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, 7 Nov (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani has received a written message from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Salim al-Za'nun, Fatah Central Committee member and its representative in the Gulf region, and PNC deputy speaker, delivered the message when his highness the amir received him here today.

QNA reports that the message comes within the framework of consultations and meetings that 'Arafat is conducting with the Arab leaders prior to the convocation of the extraordinary PNC session in Algeria next week. The PNC will define the Palestinian steps in the coming stage to attain the Palestinian people's legitimate national objectives, particularly the right to self-determination and establishment of an independent state on their national soil.

QNA also reports that the message deals with developments of the Palestinian cause in light of the Al-'Aqabah and Baghdad summits, the results of the Israeli elections, and the impact this may have on opportunities to establish peace in the Middle East through an international conference under UN aegis. The message also deals with coordinating Arab efforts to support and escalate the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories against Zionist terrorism and repression.

Visiting PRC Official Views Oil Cooperation

JN0511163488 Manama WAKH in English 1605 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, Nov 5 (GNA)—Managing Director of the Qatar General Petroleum Cooperation (QGPC) Dr Jabir al-Mirri reviewed at a meeting today with the managing director of the Chinese Corporation for Gas and Petroleum, Wang Tao, now visiting Doha, various aspects of cooperation between the two countries in the gas and petroleum domains.

The Chinese delegation later discussed with a number of QGPC officials mutual cooperation and a number of issues of mutual interest. The Chinese delegation arrived in Doha last Wednesday on a week long visit to Qatar.

Meets Finance Minister

JN0611174388 Manama WAKH in English 1643 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, Nov 6 (GNA)—Qatari Minister of Finance Petroleum Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani today held talks with Managing General of the Chinese Corporation for Gas and Petroleum Wang Tao.

Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz and Wang Tao exchanged words of welcome expressive of the desire of the two countries for deepening cooperation between the two countries in energy domains. They have also expressed the desire that the visit serves as an opportune time for the exchange of ideas and consultation on best ways to consolidate future cooperation.

Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz accepted an invitation to visit Peoples Republic of China extended to him by Wang Tao provided the date of the visit is fixed at suitable time. QATAR NEWS AGENCY learned the talks also covered prospects of future relations for fruitful cooperation in energy and gas domains.

Saudi Arabia

Paper Cites Foreign Minister on Ties With Iran

PM0711124688 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic3 Nov 88 pp 1-2

[Hasin al-Bunyan report: "Sa'ud al-Faysal To AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Good Intentions the Way To Restore Relations With Iran"]

[Excerpt] Riyadh, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—Asked by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT whether the cessation of media campaigns between the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and Iran is a sign of a restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal declared that he by no means rules out the restoration of relations between the Kingdom and Iran, as long as both sides display good intentions.

The Kingdom, he said, is always eager to maintain its relations with the Islamic states at a good and high level. It hopes to maintain normal relations with the Islamic states.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal pointed out that the Kingdom's policy has always been maintained within this context. "The best proof of this are the statements made by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz at the Islamic information ministers' meetings and during his meeting at Umm al-Qura University. He clearly explained the Saudi Arabian Kingdom's approach, namely, its desire to keep its relations with the Islamic states at a high level."

He added: With regard to our relations with Iran, I believe that both parties must display good intentions. And when there are good intentions, I would by no means rule out the restoration of our diplomatic relations with Tehran. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Prime Minister Arrives 5 Nov

LD0511112188 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister of the fraternal state of Kuwait, arrived in Riyadh at 1230 today on an official visit to the Kingdom at the invitation of His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and head of the National Guard. The prince was in the forefront of the welcoming party at King Khalid International Airport. [passage omitted]

Makes Statement

LD0511150888 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1155 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Riyadh, 5 Nov (SPA)—His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister of Kuwait, expressed happiness at visiting his second country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In a statement to SPA on his arrival in Riyadh today, his highness said: "I am looking forward to meeting with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. My visit to the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia comes at the invitation of my brother, His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard."

His Highness indicated that he will discuss with His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and senior Saudi officials several issues of mutual interest and matters concerning the Arab Gulf in general. He stressed the importance of exchanging visits between the two countries' officials for consultations, understanding and coordination on various issues. He said in this respect: "The Gulf region has gone through difficult circumstances, but thank God we managed, with collective efforts, to overcome those problems and difficulties."

He concluded by saying: "All the officials in these states are working to provide prosperity and stability for their peoples".

French Defense Minister Hands Letter to King Fahd

LD0711175688 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1506 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Medina, 7 Nov (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, may God protect him, received at his office in Taybah palace His Excellency French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement and his delegation. The French defense minister conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques, a letter from His Excellency French President Francois Mitterrand.

The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation and general inspector; the ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques to France, Jamil al-Hujaylan, and France's ambassador to the Kingdom, Jacques Raynier.

Departs 7 Nov

LD0711202088 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1833 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Al-Madinah, 7 Nov (SPA)—The French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement, has left Al-Madinah following a 3-day visit to the Kingdom. He

was seen off by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector-general. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 6 Nov

JN0611173388 Manama WAKH in English 1640 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 6 (GNA)—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Besharati arrived here from Muscat this evening on a two-day visit to the UAE.

The Iranian official is carrying a letter from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i to President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan on the developments in the area and relations between the two countries.

Meets With Under Secretary

JN0711131088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1250 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 Nov (WAKH)—Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid, UAE Foreign Ministry under secretary, received Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Besharati here today. Their discussion dealt with bilateral relations and ways to promote them.

WAM reports that the Iranian official briefed Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid on the progress of the peace negotiations currently taking place between Iraq and Iran to establish peace between the two countries and stability in the Arabian Gulf area.

Sees Rashid 'Abdallah

JN0711142488 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1315 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 Nov (WAM)—Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs this afternoon in his office received Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati who is currently visiting the country.

The Iranian official stated after the meeting that discussions centered on issues of interest to the Gulf countries. He added in a statement to WAM that he informed Rashid 'Abdallah on the developments of the current round of negotiations in Geneva between Iraq and Iran and means of implementing the rest of the articles of UN Resolution 598.

Besharati said that they discussed the issue of the Gulf region's security which the countries of the region should be informed of. He added that his tour, in addition to the UAE and Oman, will include Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar. The meeting was attended by Iranian Ambassador to the UAE Mostafa Haeri-Fumani.

Delivers Khamene'i Message

LD0711174188 Tehran IRNA in English 1704 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7 IRNA—Iran's first deputy foreign minister presented President 'Ali Khamene'i's message for his UAE counterpart to the latter's son Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid in the UAE capital today.

The content of the message to Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan deals with the latst regional developments, Iran-Iraq peace talks in Geneva and Tehran-Abu Dhabi ties.

'Ali Mohammad Besharati discussed with the Abu Dhabi heir-apparent the current situation in Lebanon and OPEC-related issues in additon to mutual relations. Shaykh Khalifah's calling for expansion of bilateral ties hailed the Islamic Republic's acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598.

Earlier in the day, Besharati met UAE deputy foreign minister Hamdan ibn Zayid, and reviewed the trend of the U.N.-mediated peace talks in Geneva. The Islamic Republic is for a lasting peace in the Persian Gulf, he reiterated. He expressed hope the world community would prevent any obstacles in the way of peace talks on the part of any side reluctant to see a rapid settlement of the issue.

In response, the UAE deputy foreign minister pointed out the need to attain a lasting peace as soon as possible on the basis of U.N. Resolution 598. He also called for collective cooperation among littoral states to maintain Persian Gulf security.

In a separate meeting in Abu Dhabi today, Besharati discussed with UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah the Persian Gulf situation after Iran's acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598.

Besharati who arrived in Abu Dhabi from Oman Sunday left for Kuwait Monday evening on the third leg of his Persian Gulf tour.

Visits Heir Apparent, Departs

JN0711163288 Manama WAKH in English 1602 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 7 (GNA)—Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid received today Deputy Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

Besharati, who arrived yesterday, handed Shaykh Khalifah a letter to President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from President 'Ali Khamene'i dealing with bilateral ties and issues of common concern.

The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah and Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid and Iranian Ambassador to the UAE Mostafa Haeri-Fumani. The talks centered on regional and international developments of mutual interest.

Shaykh Khalifah affirmed the UAE's keenness on the need to intensify efforts during the Iraqi-Iran talks to help ensure peace and establish good neighbourliness relations.

Besharati later left Abu Dhabi and was seen by Shaykh Hamdan and the Iranian ambassador. He is due to visit Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain.

Carlucci Statement Said 'Green Light' for Israel

JN0611180688 Manama WAKH in English 1648 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Manama, Nov 6 (GNA)—A United Arab Emirates newspaper today warned of an imminent Israeli aggression against Arab states.

"The United States have given Israel the green light to declare war against Arabs," the Abu Dhabi-based AL-FARJ said.

It said the current Israeli plight and the hostile mood in the Zionist entity indicate Israel will launch a new aggression.

"The Zionists might again use the pretext of a growing threat by a certain Arab state and the need to launch a preemptive strike," it said.

The paper said the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza has pushed Israel into an unprecedented dilemma.

"Israel could try to find a way out by mounting a major strike and Syria, Iraq or Libya might be possible candidates together with an invasion of south Lebanon," it said.

It referred to comments this week by U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci in which he pledged support for Israel to strengthen what he said was its negotiating position.

"Carlucci's comments are not only a warning to Arabs, but a clear go-ahead for Israel to launch an offensive," it said.

It urged Arab states to revise the concepts of alliance and friendship and prepare for the Israeli attack.

"After Carlucci's warning, Arab states need to revise the concepts of alliance, friendship and mutual interests and define the meaning of friend and enemy," it said.

Tariq 'Aziz, Perez de Cuellar Exchange Messages

JN0511201188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1925 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 5 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, exchanged with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in Geneva today messages on the situation of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group.

The messages dealt with organizing the work of the UN observers on Iraqi territory and specifying the nature of the facilities provided to them by Iraq according to the international agreements and the UN Charter.

The messages were exchanged at the UN secretary general's office at the Palais des Nations in Geneva following the conclusion of the third direct Iraq-Iran round of talks today.

INA on Upcoming 'Expert Level' Meetings

JN0711125888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 7 Nov (INA)—INA learned today that only one or two sessions will be held between the Iraqi and Iranian delegations at the expert level following the fourth joint ministerial meeting between the two sides that is expected to be held at 1600 today.

The INA team says that the experts from both the Iraqi and Iranian sides will discuss technical matters pertaining to the dredging of the Shatt al-'Arab, the freedom of navigation in the Arabian Gulf, and the exchange of POW's. Only one session of the direct negotiations at experts level was held last Thursday. It was the first session of its kind between the two delegations since they started direct negotiations on 25 August.

Jan Eliasson, the UN secretary general's representative, chaired an expanded meeting at the Palais de Nations this morning that was attended by the members of the UN delegation to the negotiations, and the other UN advisers to prepare for the fourth session of direct negotiations which will be the first session to be chaired by Eliasson during this round of talks after UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's departure from Geneva yesterday.

Fourth Ministerial Meeting Begins in Geneva

JN0711170588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1628 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 7 Nov (INA)—The fourth expanded session of direct Iraq-Iran negotiations began on the ministerial level at the Palais des Nations in Geneva at 1630 today. The Iraqi side is led by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Iranian side is led by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Tariq 'Aziz arrived at the Palais des Nations at 1628, 2 minutes after the arrival of Velayati and the Iranian delegation.

Session Ends; 'Aziz Speaks

JN0811073788 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] The fourth expanded ministerial session of direct Iraq-Iran negotiations ended at 2340 Baghdad time last night, after lasting 5 hours and 10 minutes.

Tariq 'Aziz and members of the Iraqi delegation were the first to leave the meeting hall.

This session is the longest session since the beginning of the third round of direct negotiations in Geneva last Tuesday.

In a statement to journalists following the meeting, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that he will send a message to the UN secretary general on the recent statement made by the commander of the Iranian guards in which he said that his government should dispatch further military reinforcements to the frontlines. He added that Iraq believes that this statement is very serious, especially since it comes when the negotiations are being held under the auspices of the UN secretary general, and when the entire international community expressed hope that a comprehensive settlement will be reached on all issues discussed.

'Aziz said: I explained to the Iranian and UN delegations at last night's session that if the Iranian side makes threats then no one will be intimidated by these threats, and they must know this well. The military conflict lasted 8 years and every one in the world is aware of the practical results of this conflict. Therefore, threatening to resume acts of aggression and military operations will never intimidate us.

The foreign minister said: What we need is a rational and realistic assessment of the situation, because this is the only means to deal with events. The fruitful path for both sides is the path of peace which can be reached through the current negotiations according to the clauses of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 which is based on the UN Charter and international law.

He added that he will meet this morning with the chairman of the International Committee for the Red Cross to discuss certain proposals regarding the POW issue. He expressed hope that the efforts being exerted will lead to an immediate exchange of POW's. The foreign minister pointed out that there will be another ministerial meeting today.

Answering a question on whether Iraq has purchased new arms, Tariq 'Aziz said: Iraq has manufactured arms, and this is natural for any state capable of manufacturing weapons. However, this does not necessarily mean that this state should use these weapons against others. The states do this to protect themselves from any foreign aggression. Iraq's manufacturing of arms by itself is a completely different issue then the Iranian military official saying that Iran has sent new military reinforcements to the front.

'Aziz pointed out that dispatching military reinforcements to the front means that these forces will be used, otherwise, what does the dispatching of forces to the front mean if there are no intentions to use them one way or another?

The foreign minister stressed that Iraq has not dispatched any reinforcements to the front since the cease-fire went into effect. He said: On the contrary, Iraq has demobilized a large part of its Armed Forces.

'Aziz on Reza'i Statement to Perez de Cuellar

JN0811105288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT Nov 88

[Excerpts] Geneva, 8 Nov (INA)—Iraq has called on the United Nations to draw sound conclusions on the Iranian stand in light of Iranian Guard Commander Mohsen Reza'i's statement in which he called for dispatching reinforcements to the frontlines, and claimed that there are attempts to invade Iran.

In a memorandum he sent from Geneva to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that these Iranian campaigns constitute threats to use force when the negotiations are underway. [passage omitted]

Following is the text of the memorandum:

Your Excellency, I have the honor to send to Your Excellency the text of the statement made by commander of the so-called Iranian Revolution Guards, which was carried by AFP citing IRNA yesterday, 6 November [as received], in which he said: Iran will continue to dispatch reinforcements to the fronts so long as UN Security Council Resolution No 598 is not fully implemented and a lasting peace is not established. Our enemies are hatching plots to invade Iran again at the first opportunity. We are now in a no war-no peace situation.

This statement sheds bright light on the truth behind Iran's stand when it accepted Resolution 598 on 18 July 1988. At the time, we warned that this was a tactical stand dealing with the comprehensive and fast Iranian defeat following 8 years of its insistence on war and aggression. It also sheds bright light on the maneuverings and procrastination the Iranian delegation is following at the current negotiations which the two countries have been holding since 25 August 1988 under your auspices.

This also clearly explains the reasons behind the Iranian regime's hesitation to entrench the provisions of the cease-fire agreement in a clear formula of legal obligations in the air, on land, and at sea, and its hampering of reaching an agreement based on the legitimate balance of both sides' interests and benefits provided by these obligations. Without any legal or logical base, the Iranian delegation claims that actual war actions have not ended with the cease-fire going into effect on 20 August 1988. In fact, this means that the Iranian regime is not interested in giving the cease-fire detailed legal obligations in the form of a binding agreement so as to be able to violate the cease-fire and resume aggression at the time it deems appropriate.

The statement to which we referred and the empty talk about alleged attempts to invade Iran are aimed at camouflaging the true Iranian stand, which stipulates preparing for the resumption of aggression through continuing to send reinforcements to the front without any practical need for this action—after the cease-fire went into effect and the front was placed under the supervision of UN observers—other than to create an atmosphere for aggression.

On this occasion, the Iraqi Government wishes to ask Your Excellency to draw sound conclusions from the Iranian stand and to consider the consequences of this stand. The Iraqi Government wishes to affirm its constant stand on the desire to continue negotiations under your auspices in order to achieve a comprehensive and durable peace. It also affirms that these Iranian campaigns which constitute a threat to use force while the negotiations are underway will not make us budge from our firm stand on the need to fix the cease-fire rules on a legal and binding basis and on the basis of equality. This is an indispensable step on the path to a comprehensive and durable peace.

Please accept my best regards.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, prime minister and foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq

Minister Outlines Postwar Information Strategy

JN0611181088 Baghdad INA in English 1650 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 6 INA—Iraqi information organs would be dedicating their efforts during the post-war stage to highlighting development plans and to cultural and humanitarian building, Iraqi Minister of Culture and Information Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim said.

During a meeting here today with Iraqi writers and journalists, the Iraqi minister stressed "henceforth, the paramount value that Iraqi information would be adhering to in the expression of freedom and dignity of man." [sentence as received]

The minister stressed "Iraqi nationals have set the most superior example in defence of Iraq and the Arab nation ... hence, Iraqi media and culture are now duty-bound towards Iraqis."

Mr. Jasim reiterated that there were neither taboos nor censorships in Iraqi media unless it came to topics concerning national and pan-Arab security.

"Freedom of writing and deepening this freedom, an approach which President Sadam Husayn has been calling for since 1979, is the cultural and information approach being pursued by Iraq," the minister said.

Joint Committee Meetings With Cuba Begin 2 Nov

JN0211211288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1510 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—The meetings of the seventh session of the Joint Iraqi-Cuban Committee for Bilateral Economic, Technical, and Trade Cooperation began here today.

During today's session, three committees were formed to discuss ways to develop bilateral cooperation in the economic, trade, technical, and financial fields and also in the area of the exchange of expertise.

The Iraqi side to the meetings was led by Finance Minister Hikmat 'Umar Mukhaylif, while the Cuban side to the meetings was led by Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation.

Representatives of the Ministries of Finance, Trade, Transport and Communications, Industry and Military Industrialization, and Health are participating in the meetings.

Joint Committee Minutes Signed

JN0511160688 Baghdad INA in English 1520 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 5, INA—Iraq and Cuba today signed here a minutes for the 7th session of the two countries joint committee for trade, economic and technical cooperation.

The minutes signed on the Iraqi side by Minister of Finance Hikmat 'Umar Mukhaylif and on the Cuban side by minister of the governmental committee for economic cooperation provides for promoting and expanding economic, trade and technical exchange.

The committee concluded its meetings started here last Wednesday. [sentence as received]

Ramadan, Cuban Minister Meet

JN0511180888 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received Nenad Kerkic, SFRY federal secretary of foreign trade, and his delegation.

During the meeting, the first deputy prime minister received a written message from the SFRY president of the Federal Executive Council, on the developed bilateral relations and the SFRY's serious eagerness to continue to develop and expand them in the future.

Taha Yasin Ramadan voiced Iraq's satisfaction with its developed relations with the SFRY and affirmed the importance of expanding and developing these relations in the economic, trade, scientific, and technical spheres. He also stressed the need to draw up a wide-ranging program to effect a move to an advanced level of bilateral relations through the meetings of the joint [Iraqi-SFRY] committee which will be held in the near future.

The meeting was attended by the SFRY ambassador in Baghdad.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, also received Ernesto Melendez, Cuban minister president of the state committee for economic cooperation.

During the meeting, the Cuban minister president conveyed the greetings of President Fidel Castro to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He also affirmed the importance that Cuba attaches to its relations with Iraq as well as its pride in developing these ties.

The first deputy prime minister asked the Cuban minister president to convey the greetings of His Excellency President Leader Saddam Husayn to President Fidel Castro and also to affirm to the Cuban president Iraq's desire to develop its relations with Cuba.

They discussed bilateral relations and the results of the meetings of the joint Iraqi-Cuban committee which is meeting in Baghdad. They also asserted the importance of rendering this session of meetings as a distinguished one as regards the increase in the volume of bilateral trade and the development of the bilateral economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting was attended by the Cuban ambassador in Baghdad.

Cuban Delegation Departs

JN0611164988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—Ernesto Melendez, Cuban minister president of the state committee for economic cooperation, and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad today at the end of a visit to Iraq lasting several days.

Melendez had attended the opening of the Baghdad International Fair and also headed the Cuban side to the 7th session of the Iraqi-Cuban joint committee for trade, economic, and technical cooperation. He also signed the minutes of the joint committee for economic and trade cooperation between Iraq and Cuba.

In a statement to INA, Melendez described his visit to Iraq and his talks with the Iraqi officials as good, fruitful, and having contributed to increasing spheres of cooperation and expanding trade exchange between the two countries.

IDF Preparing for Violence During PNC Meeting

TA0711202788 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Excerpts] IDF forces in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip are bracing themselves for the possibility of a buildup in the demonstrations and rioting in the territories with the 12 November opening of the PNC's deliberations. A curfew on all Gaza Strip refugee camps is being considered. Our correspondent Menahem Hadar was in the Gaza Strip today.

[Begin Hadar recording] [Passage omitted] A leaflet with the heading "Independence" distributed in the Gaza Strip calls on the inhabitants of the territories to increase clashes and carry out processions of joy on the occasion of the declaration of independence by the PNC. In celebrating their independence day they will not just use plastic hammers. Officers in the field said that the IDF is prepared to meet any development. Remember the cannon that fires gravel to disperse mass demonstrations? It has not been used for months. But such equipment, and other means, are being made operational to meet expected mass demonstrations and to disperse them without paying the heavy price of fatalities and wounded.

IDF forces will be reinforced; part of the reinforcements will be deployed in the field, while reserves will be sent to the centers of trouble. Reconnaisance from the air by aircraft and helicopters will also be increased, and a curfew will be imposed on the refugee camps to freeze the situation. [end recording] [passage omitted]

South Lebanese Army's Lahd Escapes Assassination

TA0711191488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 7 Nov 88

[Text] General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, escaped an assassination attempt this evening. He was slightly wounded in his arm by a Lebanese woman who shot him at close range. Lahd was rushed by helicopter to Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

Further on Parties' Coalition Activities

TA0711152388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The Likud Party has proposed that Rehav'am Ze'evi, head of the Moledet movement, be given the post of deputy defense minister in a government led by Yitzhaq Shamir. This was disclosed by Ze'evi in a talk to a closed forum of the movement. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that circles in the Likud have expressed criticism of this proposition. It seems, however, that the Moledet movement will tell President Herzog that Shamir is its only candidate to serve as prime minister.

Minister David Levi has criticized Minister Sharon's initiatives in the negotiations with the religious parties on forming a government. In a conversation with our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh, Minister Levi said that the Likud has a team authorized for negotiations, of which Sharon is a member. He should therefore take part in the discussions it is holding. There is no point or sense in groveling and making promises to parties, or making commitments that cannot be kept later. Such commitments, said Levi, only increase the demands made by parties that are part of the coalition negotiations.

Two ultraorthodox parties, Degel Hatora and SHAS [Torah Observing Sepharadim] are currently drawing up an agreement with the Alignment according to which they would not participate in a government led by Yitzhaq Shamir if it does not include the Alignment as well. This was learned by our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh. In preliminary meetings conducted recently, Rabbi Schach's circles suggest that the new government be led by Shamir, with the Alignment getting the defense and foreign affairs portfolios.

The government's basic guidelines would state that Jewish settlements will not be removed and that action toward peace will be taken. Representatives of the religious parties are to propose this plan to the president of the state. So far, however, no approval of this plan has been expressed by the Alignment or the Likud.

President Hayim Herzog made clear to the Alignment delegation he met this morning that he would assign the forming of the government to the Knesset member who is backed by the largest number of supporters. 'Uzi Bar'am, head of the Alignment delegation, told our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami upon leaving the president's residence that the delegation recommended Shim'on Peres to head the next government.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 7 November adds that on the same occasion, Bar'am said that "Labor rejects a continuation of the current national unity government, but will consider a temporary arrangement with the Likud." Bar'am added that such a government should be in office for "a short period of time, 6 to 12 months, no longer than that. The main issue on this government's agenda would be the electoral reform."]

[passage omitted] The Likud representatives, who were the first to meet the president, this morning recommended that present Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir be appointed to form the next government. During the conversation President Herzog said that it has been a long time since he has received so many appeals from the public asking him to initiate forming a national unity government with the participation of the Likud and the Alignment for a limited period until they amend the election system.

Yuval Ne'eman, head of the Tehiya movement, responded to that by saying that the public appeals mentioned by the president were organized and represent less than 0.001 percent of the Israeli public. The Center-Shinuy movement, on the other hand, called on the Alignment and the Likud to respond favorably to the president's suggestion.

Tzomet Knesset Member Refa'el Eytan recommended that the prime minister ask the Alignment to participate in a government led by Shamir, without rotation. Eytan said that such a government is needed because of Israel's serious economic problems and to avoid exaggerated demands by the small ultraorthodox parties.

According to Eytan's suggestion, such a national unity government should concentrate on solving Israel's serious problems in economic and social matters, and after a while should hold new and personal, nonparty elections. Mr Shamir responded favorably to that suggestion. He stressed, however, that he will be able to consider that only after he is assigned to form the government.

Salah Tarif, head of the Julis local council, says that the Alignment must find a way to allow a Druze into the Knesset even if this means that a member is forced to resign. Tarif was in the 40th slot in the Alignment's Knesset list, but remained out of the Knesset. In a conversation with journalists in Haifa, Tarif said that this is the first time since Israel was founded that the Druze have had no representation in the Knesset.

Arabs, Druze Support Jewish Religious Party

TA0711102688 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Nov 88 p 2

[ITIM report]

[Text] Tel Aviv—The National Religious Party won 8,000 votes in the Knesset elections in the Arab and Druze sectors, the party announced yesterday. In the village of Al-Fureidis near Zikhron Ya'aqov it won 25 per cent of the vote.

Party activists Tawfiq Hajj 'Awad and Salah Badr explain this Arab and Druze support for a hawkish Jewish Orthodox party by its emphasizing of religious and educational issues in the campaign, which concern many Arabs, too.

HA'ARETZ Reviews Peres' Position in Labor Party

TA0711171388 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Nov 88 p 9

[Analysis by Ilan Shehori: "Beleaguered From Every Side"]

[Text] The Labor Party will soon face a searching self-analysis, with nearly all the arrows directed at Shim'on Peres—the man who led the Labor's election campaign, determined its character, and failed to cooperate with any of the party's co-leaders. It is very doubtful, however, whether the recent calls to depose Peres from the party leadership—issued mainly by those who were stultified during the election campaign—will result in any concrete changes in the party's top echelons in the near future.

As far as Peres is concerned, the attempts to form a unity government headed by Shamir may well turn out to be his deliverance in that it will obscure his defeat. It would seem, therefore, that he should support action along this line. Yet, Peres is a seasoned politician who understands that his position inside his party has reached bottom. If a proposal to join a unity government is raised, many will seek to prevent his return to government by waging a personal war against him under the guise of an ideological struggle.

Therefore, he has repeatedly stated in the past few days that it is inconceivable that the Labor Party would join a Shamir government. At this point, he does not want to get a slap in the face from a hostile party central committee, which will most probably decide against a unity government.

It should be added that the Labor Party's present configuration differs from that of 1977, 1981, or even 1984. This time, the defeat will not be forgiven. Too many high-ranking party officials now view themselves as potential leaders, and the Labor's electoral failure is their golden opportunity to make the leap into the top ranks. The aspirants include, besides Moshe Shahal, Gad Ya'aqobi, Mordekhay Gur, and 'Uzi Bar'am, also Ora Namir, Rafi Edri, Shlomo Hilel, and even Yisra'el Qeysar, all of whom will now do their best to exhaust all possibilities to change the leadership.

Ever since the days of the Ben-Gurion-Lavon struggle, no one in the Labor Party has been deposed. Changes in the high echelons were made either by consent or through resignation. It is therefore safe to assume that Peres will not be deposed, not even through initiatives to change the party's regulations, such as the current attempt to abolish the party chairmanship. Yet the statement against Peres made by Yitzhaq Rabin last week rejecting the chairman's theory tying the Labor's electoral defeat with the Molotov cocktail attack near Jericho further weakened Peres' position in his party.

As long as Peres and Rabin worked hand in hand, they were impregnable within the party. Every initiative proposed by opposing factions encountered a determined objection. In fact, every wish the duo expressed in recent years on any party institution was granted almost without hesitation. Rabin's statement, which many party activists view as the beginning of a resumed rift between the two, has left Peres alone in the arena.

It seems that in anticipating changes in the party's leadership, Rabin has decided to take off his gloves to save his skin. In fact, Rabin was not party to the political strategy Peres outlined in the election campaign. He expressed no objection in public, but—like all the ministers—he was divested of all influence. He voiced his opinion of this in private circles only. Rabin was angry, for instance, with the moderately left-wing line adopted by the Labor Party. He was angry at the fact that Peres introduced outside advisers and experts.

He leveled criticism at the personality cult which accompanied the campaign. At present, Rabin is trying to make it clear that he does not intend to be blamed for the painful failure of the campaign. Speaking with his confidants and aides during recent consultations, he made much more acrid remarks than those he uttered in public.

Rabin will probably abstain at present from helping to depose Peres. However, it is obvious that if the grounds for the act are prepared, he will pose no objections. At present, Rabin has the most consolidated inner camp in the Labor Party. His friends make a point to hold weekly meetings, and they have already begun to imply that Rabin will not disappear from the Labor leadership's ranks. Rabin's statement in favor of a unity government, versus Peres' determined objection, will only serve to make the struggle between them more poignant.

It is also not inconceivable that Rabin's statement will officially launch an anti-Peres campaign, and which will force him eventually—possibly in a few months—to resign of his own initiative. Many party officials, whose political future depended on Peres, will then feel liberated. Some of them will probably join the public attack against Peres, which will be launched next Thursday at the Labor Party bureau meeting, the first since the elections.

As far as is known, Peres does not intend to give up his position in the Labor Party, nor does he plan to resign from the post of party chairman. On the contrary, judging by his post-election moves, he intends to strengthen his position by attempting to include others in the responsibility for the failure. Peres made it clear in the past few days that he intends to resume normal party activity. He has met with Party Secretary General 'Uzi Bar'am and told him he intends to return to his old quarters in the Party Center building, from which Bar'am has been working during the past years.

Peres' recent moves seem to indicate that he intends to suggest to Bar'am that he resign as secretary general and that he assume the post of chairman of the Alignment faction in the Knesset. Peres is not interested in an active and dominant secretary general at present. He fears Bar'am's power, preferring a weaker personality who would blindly accept his authority and through whom he would be able to rule over the party and its institutions. One such person is Knesset Member Mikha Harish, considered to be one of Peres' faithful followers. He has been a Peres supporter since 1984 when he supported Peres in a struggle against Bar'am in the party's central committee.

Whichever way things happen, the Labor Party will have to weather an internal storm which is bound to leave its mark. Only a miracle, perhaps one performed by the religious parties, is now capable of salvaging Peres' political future. Soon, a new power foci will be formed within the party in preparation for the party convention in 1 or 2 years. Even if Peres is not replaced now, it is hard to believe that he will be the one to lead the Labor in the next elections.

Labor Party Continues Coalition Negotiations

TA0711105088 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Nov 88 pp 1, 10

[Report by Dan Petreanu, Hayim Shapiro, Mikhal Yudelman, David Rudge, Judy Siegel, and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Labour's Shim'on Peres yesterday continued his negotiations with all three ultra-Orthodox parties despite increasingly vocal demands within Labour by those who see the talks as a humiliating process that will only strengthen the leverage of the non-Zionist ultra-Orthodox.

The meetings took place after an apparent order by Rabbi Eli'ezer Schach, a patron of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and the unquestioned spiritual leader of Degel Hatora, that these parties investigate the possibility of joining a Labour-led government.

While it seems highly unlikely that the Aguda, [Agudat Yisra'el] supported by the hawkish Lubavitcher Rebbe, could join Labour, the parties led by the dovish Schach have no real ideological opposition to Labour's peace agenda.

SHAS may have more to gain as the only religious partner in a Labour coalition than as one of four religious parties joining Likud. This may remain so even if Degel Hatora also joins Labour, since it is so far unclear whether this new two-man faction is demanding any ministries.

Although it is unclear what Labour has promised SHAS, it is widely believed that the six-seat faction may stand to gain the Interior, Education, and Religious Affairs portfolios if it joins Labour. [passage omitted]

But despite these developments, Yitzhaq Shamir is certain he will form the next government and intends to complete the job by the end of this week, sources close to the prime minister told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday. He is continuing the momentum of intensive meetings and contacts with the religious parties, they said.

In light of the renewed possibility of a Labour-led coalition, the Citizens' Rights Movement reversed its position on the issue and came out in favour of continued talks. MK [Knesset Member] Dedi ['Oded] Zucker told THE POST that the party favours the negotiations "as long as there is a reasonable chance that they (the religious parties) are sincere and the talks may be successful. What has changed since last week is the estimation of these chances."

Shamir, it was learned, was not shocked by SHAS's apparent turn-about. "This is not unusual. They want to keep all their options open as well as exert pressure. From their point of view, it makes sense," sources said. "It will make things more difficult for Likud, but ultimately they'll go with us, not Labour."

Sources cited SHAS leader Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz's charge that the Likud had broken its promises to his party as less a reason for the party's espousal of Labour and more a means of pressure on the Likud.

Heads of the three Arab or Arab-dominated parties yesterday indicated their willingness to support a Labour-led coalition government from the sidelines.

The (Communist) Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (DFPE), with four members in the incoming Knesset and the Progressive List for Peace (PLP) and the Arab Democratic Party (ADP), with one each, would expect certain concessions, however, in return for their backing.

The DFPE decided yesterday it would tell President Herzog that "we strongly oppose any form of right-wing/religious-fundamentalist, or a Likud-led government, or another unity government, because such governments can lead Israel into another war and certainly not towards peace," said DFPE spokesman 'Uzi Burstein.

The ADP'S 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah said his party had not decided what it would recommend to the president, despite an approach from Labour Party secretary-general 'Uzi Bar'am. "We certainly are not in Labour's pocket," Darawshah, who started his political career in Labour, said.

PLP MK Muhammad Mi'ari said his party also demands an end to discrimination against Israeli Arabs and readiness to participate in an international peace conference in exchange for its support.

Tzomet's leaders are to meet this morning to discuss whether its two-man Knesset faction should recommend that the President choose Shamir or Peres.

Commentary Reviews Shamir's Situation

TA0311194388 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Nov 88 p 9

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "The Shamir Option"]

[Text] As things look the morning after, Yitzhaq Shamir may now say a "good riddance" grace for being rid of Shim'on Peres, and start memorizing the morning prayers in anticipation of his new Cabinet sessions.

Peres will no longer be there, but for many days to come his political spirit will hover over the region. His heritage—the inheritance which took roots overseas—will return to trouble the sleep of Shamir's government and its rabbis. The prime minister is no longer willing to listen to talk about the international conference, promising that with the political defeat of the man whom he calls the author of the idea, it will cease to exist. Nevertheless, even the Likud election propaganda profusely quoted Peres' 1985 condemnation of the invitation extended to Israel to serve prey to the superpowers.

Without Ted Koppel's mediation, Shamir could hear King Husayn confirm the conclusion Peres reached at the end of that year: "Whether you like it or not, a conference is the only political game in the region. Take it or leave it." Later, he heard similar statements from the leaders of the United States, the Soviet Union, Egypt, the United Kingdom, France, the PRC, and East European countries. They will not change their stands because of the Israeli election results, at least not in the immediate future. The intifada [uprising], which even the Likud knows cannot be eliminated with one sweep of the hand, will continue drawing the world's attention to the region. It is doubtful whether Shamir will be allowed to enjoy his newly-acquired glory for long.

The political prognosis can end here, after stating that the nationalistic reinforcements to Shamir's coalition in the form of the Tehiya, Tzomet, and the transfer party [Moledet], will serve merely to further limit the maneuverability of the man who has acquired the reputation of being "Mr No." A man does not transform at the age of 73, particularly not one as intransigent, conservative, and lacking in vision as Shamir. Shamir, however, is also a pragmatic politician capable of separating nationalistic verbiage for internal consumption, from rhetoric manufactured for foreign use.

His prolonged service in the Foreign Ministry has sharpened his recognition of the importance of Israel's foreign relations, mainly its sensitive relations with the United States. This is the reason why he was not overly diligent in promoting the issue of new settlements and has postponed indefinitely the application of Israeli law in the territories. It is safe to assume that, in the sunset of his political days, he will refrain from antagonizing Egypt, the United States, and other countries with whom Israel wishes to maintain good relations, by establishing new settlements or by annexation.

If we add the assumption that Shamir will not run for the premiership at the age of 77, it is obvious that he is now in the enjoyably advantageous position of a leader in his last term in office, who can permit himself to make moves controversial even in his camp. For the first time, his political future does not depend on the whims of Ari'el Sharon and David Levi. In the election campaign he managed to isolate these two, placing his proteges in all the key positions. The self-confidence of this grey man, who in one stroke landed in the shoes of a charismatic leader, was enhanced by the fact that many constituents received him as Menahem Begin's sole heir.

Shamir thus lost overnight the handy scapegoat, who could always be blamed, along with his international conference, for the Arabs' refusal to launch direct negotiations. He also lost the dubious pretext that his political situation forces him to look constantly over his shoulder at his colleagues breathing down his neck on his right. He now bears full responsibility, and it is up to him to prove that he was vainly accused by Peres, who had called him "the murderer of peace."

For 4 years, Shamir's confidants claimed that had Peres not schemed against Shamir out of his ardent desire to get exclusive credit as the peace harbinger, he would have found a loyal partner in Shamir. They took pains to circulate hints intimating that if the young men surrounding Shamir, including Dan Meridor, Ehud Olmert, and Elyaqim Rubinstein, said in public what they say in private, their remarks would be considered heresy, mainly by the supporters of Greater Yisra'el.

They said they are ready to offer the Palestinians extensive autonomy, valid until the talks on a permanent arrangement begin. In October 1987, Shamir consented to show up for an "international opening" under the aegis of President Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev. His men contended that King Husayn had rejected the "mini-summit" because he received a proposal from Peres which was more generous from his point of view and more defeatist from Israel's.

Ever since Peres' failure to implement the April 1987 London agreement and his futile promise to arrange for an immediate referendum if his peace initiative failed, various world powers, who had despaired of Peres, began seeking the way to Shamir's heart. The Soviets and their Hungarian allies rushed to take timely photographs with him. Yesterday, Egyptian, American, and French high-echelon officials hastened to embrace the equal opportunity principle by declaring that they will cooperate with any Israeli government. It is to be expected that in the near future Shamir will again appeal to Arab leaders to launch direct negotiations based on the Camp David accords.

If the assumption that the presence of Peres and the international conference concept aborted in advance any other initiative, the Arabs—having realized that the rules of the game have changed—are bound to adapt themselves to the new rules in the framework of the "take it or leave it" approach. Shamir entertains the hope that fearing the reaction to the intifada [uprising] of the Sharon-Gandhi [Rehav'am Ze'evi] government of generals, devoid of the restraining influence of Peres and Weizman, and the ever-present threat to annex the West Bank, the Palestinians will be forced to accept "whatever is offered."

Shamir is not fond of political dramas, and he is never in a hurry. He prefers to gain time by conducting quiet diplomacy. This time, fearing his extreme-right-wing partners' evil eye, he will refrain from exposing his political contacts even at the Cabinet meetings. He will continue to receive assistance mainly from the four Foreign Ministry men who have served him at the Prime Minister's Office. In order to preempt dispute foci, Shamir will spare no effort to remove Sharon from the Defense and Foreign Ministries.

Where flexibility can be demonstrated at a relatively low cost, such as the Tabah settlement, he will impose his authority on the Cabinet. He will offer the Soviets token involvement—something similar to the "international opening"—in exchange for dispatching the Soviet Jews on direct flights to Israel.

And after all this, if in the PNC convention on 12 November the PLO leaders manage to pass resolutions pleasing to the American ear, and if George Bush is elected and predictably nominates Jim Baker as Secretary of State—the Shamir government will have to expect some tough times from the very beginning. Baker is no lover of Zion and it is doubtful whether Israel could obtain the strategic cooperation agreement or the free trade zone agreement from him.

The chief purpose of Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci's visit is to pave the way for new arms deals with the Arabs. He may be followed here by George Shultz—who aspires to be the special envoy to the Middle East—proffering his plan to dismiss the Likud and Moledet platforms.

The blackmail threats of the religious parties, who are again coveting the endorsement of the Law of Return, jeopardize the automatic support for the Israeli government of the American Jewish leaders who will have to face pressures on the part of the U.S. administration, Congress, and American public opinion.

The affair of the protocols with the Common Market has already proved that Europe will not hesitate to strike the Jews where it hurts: in their pockets. In this situation, only Yasir 'Arafat and his fiasco-experienced colleagues can stamp the Shamir government with political legitimacy.

AL-FAJR Analyzes Results of Elections

TA0411155988 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
3 Nov 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Facing Peace or War?"]

[Text] The initial results announced by the Central Elections Committee for the 12th Israeli Knesset reveal a clear ascendancy in the power of the religious parties, which managed to gain 18 of the 120 Knesset seats. This gain propelled the religious parties into a "third force" in the Israeli map of major political forces, after the Likud and Alignment. These religious parties, however, are associated directly with the Likud in an allied rightist-religious force that makes the Zionist rightwing, on which the Likud is based, closer to its current goal of a radical religious coalition.

This represents a new entry in the increased religious fundamentalism which is growing throughout the entire region. As observers are noting, this at once indicates a dangerous acceleration in shifting the conflict in the region from its regional dimensions to a violent religious axis that would increase the dangers of war as well as the potential calamities against all nations.

Despite the fact that this is the most obvious conclusion drawn from the results of the 12th Israeli Knesset elections, a second outcome, which is of great significance on the political level, is the final demise of the so-called "Jordanian option," which results in a direct confrontation of the two options: peace or war.

The Likud, while trying under Yitzhaq Shamir's leadership to form the next Israeli Government, is facing these two options, willingly or not, in a phase of rapid political changes that do not stop or stand still. If the Alignment, within the same context, had faced a dead end and failed in its election program, the Likud will also face a dead end unless it takes into consideration the Palestinian option, which paves the way to peace.

The 14 Palestinian articles which were put forward during the past several months to start a dialogue for peace are still an option to be considered before any Israeli Government is formed, either by the Likud and its allies, or by a coalition with the Alignment. Will the Likud reach for this dialogue, or will it opt for its own terrible option of war?

AL-NAHAR Warns of Election Consequences

TA0411185788 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
4 Nov 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Will There Be A Real Arab Awakening?"]

[Text] The Israeli right wing has succeeded in gaining a majority that will enable it to form a rigid rightist government. The surprise in this election, however, is the large victory scored by the radical religious parties. As for Yitzhaq Shamir, the Likud leader, he considers the outcome of the elections as a mandate from the Israeli voter to use all means possible to quell the uprising in the occupied territories and to pursue a policy of not concluding a truce with the Palestinians and the Arabs. In other words, the mandate is for turning the hands of the clock backward. Therefore, the definite outcome of such a notion will be the escalation of hatred and violence as well as confrontation on new levels and dimensions not taken into consideration previously.

Shamir and the Israeli right wing will be making a mistake if they believe that because of their win the entire region is now in their hands and that they are alone in the political arena. The issue is too large to be dealt with by one side alone without the other side being present. Each side is trying to score and win the most points.

Israel, Shamir, and the right wing can adopt the policies on which they decide, but this does not obligate either the Palestinians or the Arabs. Furthermore, it does not obligate the other parties in the political solution game, including the great countries. Israel is not that great country which can ignore the international will and act in total isolation from the rest of the international community. There is much evidence indicating where such a path will end—suicide—and we do not believe that the Israeli people are aspiring for such an end.

Arab and Palestinian reaction has been marked by some pessimism about the region's fate and future. Some people are beginning to entertain doubts about the "peace process" which they believe would have been within grasp had the results of the elections been different. This is not correct. Shamir and the Israeli right wing will find themselves obliged to deal with reality, and will see that their electoral slogans will evaporate before the responsibility of governing and before Israel's international commitments as well as Israel's need for world aid and support.

On the other side, the Arabs and the Palestinians are obligated to rise to the level of responsibility to take a serious position. This they will not achieve except through Arab reconciliations and active solidarity with the Palestinian people. The Palestinian people's joy was great when at the Algiers summit conference all responsibilities pertaining to the Palestinian problem were handed over to the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. But no one entertained the thought that this would mean that the Arab nation would abandon its commitments and obligations toward the Arabs' primary cause. The Palestinian people are part of the Arab nation.

The uprising triggered by these people must constitute the light that scatters the darkness hovering over the Arab region. Nothing remains for the Arab nation but to accept the challenge imposed on it. After everyone has become convinced of regional failure to confront any

challenge, the Arab nation should seek inspiration from its noble past and rise from its slumber in its preparation for entering the 1990's with a modern pan-Arab renaissance.

This is the answer to the reality in the region. Indifference as well as expressing pessimism and shedding tears for the "peace process" is not only useless but is an avoidance of responsibility.

Revival and strengthening of Arab reconciliation as well as restoration of solidarity is the only way that ensures the survival of the Arab nation by means of foiling Israeli schemes against this part of the Arab body. Otherwise, sooner or later other parts of this body will be afflicted also.

Dinitz Returns From Moscow, Comments on Talks

TA0711081088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Jewish Agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz returned from Moscow last night, saying that the Soviet Union had agreed to the establishment of a Jewish cultural center in the capital, and to place no limitation on published materials and lecturers for the center. He said a team would leave shortly from Israel to discuss the technical details. Dinitz, who went there together with other Jewish leaders Edgar Bronfman and Mendel Kaplan, returned clearly pleased with the results of his talks and meetings.

Reporter Le'a Zinder asked about the reported criticism from Jewish activists who said that instead of one Jewish cultural center it would have been better to attempt to spread the learning of Hebrew and Jewish culture at a grass roots level.

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Zinder] The other subject that is of great interest to Israelis, of course, is the opening of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel. Who were the officials with whom you met, and was the subject raised?

[Dinitz] Well, I have met briefly with the foreign minister, Mr Shevardnadze; at much greater length with the minister of religious affairs [title as heard], Mr Kharchev, two meetings; and with Mr Arbatov, the director of the United States of America and Canada Institute. I did not come to ask for diplomatic relations, but obviously the subject of—I would define it differently—the subject of increasing the dialogue was served by the very fact that they allowed me there and invited me there.

I think they are interested in a dialogue; I think they are interested in continuing the dialogue; and I think that the basic decision for diplomatic relations has been made, that we are moving towards that direction. The pace of it, the speed of it, the rhythm of it, will depend to a large extent on political developments. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 7 November reports further on Dinitz' comments on his meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, as follows: "Shevardnadze stressed the desire to continue the dialogue and advance toward peace. Shevardnadze raised both hands, saying that peace is the most important thing to be brought to the region, and the Soviet Union will continue efforts in this direction. I made it clear that Israel too yearns for peace, that this yearning is not the Soviet Union's alone. The very fact that he received me in his office, at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, indicates a desire to break the ice, in a manner of speaking, which enveloped our relations over the last 21 years."]

Strassnoff Notes Provision for Death Penalty

TA0411080188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] Brigadier General Amnon Strassnoff, the military judge advocate, has informed the defense minister that the military prosecution can demand the death penalty for terrorists in cases of extreme cruelty. This, however, requires the approval of the defense and justice ministers. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Brig Gen Strassnoff says this in a written opinion presented to the defense minister after the attack on the bus in Jericho in which Rachel Weiss and her three children were killed.

In the wake of this written opinion, Minister Rabin will consult with security elements on whether to insist that the military prosecution demand the death penalty for the assailants who threw the Molotov cocktails at the bus in Jericho.

IDF Soldier Stabbed To Death; Assailant Killed

TA0711125488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Excerpt] An IDF soldier, Corporal David Dani'eli, was killed this morning in Moshav Massu'a in the Jordan Rift Valley where he was stabbed by an Arab. The assailant was later shot dead by another soldier. This was reported by the IDF spokesman.

Our correspondent Shlomi Stein adds that Dani'eli, a reserve soldier, was stationed at the entrance to the moshav when a 21-year-old Arab arrived there. Dani'eli asked to be shown an identification card at which time the Arab stabbed him. Another reserve soldier rushed to the scene and shot and killed the assailant. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 7 November reports: "The IDF clamped a curfew on the village of Tammun, the home of the man who murdered the soldier in Moshav Massu'a."

Rabin: Circumstances Unclear

TA0711140288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Our correspondent reports that an Arab youth from the village of Tammun, who worked in the moshav until 2 months ago, came to Moshav Massu'a to collect a debt from his employer. An argument broke out between the youth and a soldier. The Arab attacked the soldier with a knife while shouting God is great, and killed him. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Rabin reacted to the attack saying:

[Begin recording] I not not believe that we should draw conclusions about the IDF's deterrent capability from this incident. By chance, it involves an Arab who entered the village. It is still not clear why he attacked the soldier. The very fact that he carried out the attack is serious, but the circumstances must also be investigated. It involves an Arab who once worked here, and the reasons for his coming are still being investigated. I do not think he came here with the intention of attacking the soldier. [end recording]

Disturbances, Casualties Reported in Territories

25 Injuries Reported Last Week

TA0611163488 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 6 Nov 88 pp 1,2

[Report by Dani Rubinstein, Dani Tzidqoni, Ari'el Ben-'Ami, Yoram Levi, and Yosi Leibowitz]

[Excerpts] There were 25 casualties in the territories last week. Mutawakkil Taha, head of the writers' association in the territories, was put under administrative detention again for 6 months. Settlers from Ginnot Shomron and Qarne Shomron caused damage by sabotaging telephone pylons in Kafr Laqif and Qalqilyah.

There were many incidents in the Gaza Strip over the weekend, mainly in the refugee camps, Gaza town, and Khan Yunus. Arab sources reported that there were 10 casualties on Friday and 11 yesterday, mostly in Khan Yunus, Jabalyah, Al-Shati', and Dayr al-Balah. On the West Bank, five youths from 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus were wounded on Friday, two were wounded yesterday in Ramallah, a young girl was wounded in Bethlehem, and another youth was wounded in Silwad during a search and arrest operation. [passage omitted]

The IDF lifted the curfew on the area near Jericho where the firebombs which killed Rahel Weiss and her children were thrown. Arab sources said that the IDF once again mistakenly demolished a house in Jericho. A military source said the matter was being investigated. A house was also demolished by mistake in the village of Battir after an incident with Jewish settlers.

The Jericho house belonged to 'Abd al-Rahim Ma'mun, 67, one of whose relatives, Yunis, was arrested following the Jericho firebomb attack. His house was demolished. Arab sources said that Yunis was released on Friday after it became clear that he had no part in the attack. [passage omitted]

Houses Demolished; 20 Wounded

TA0711143388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] In Al-Taiyiba in the Triangle, 20 inhabitants were wounded by rubber bullets and suffered asphyxiation from tear gas when the police demolished 15 buildings that been ordered pulled down. The youths were given first aid and sent home.

Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports that when the police arrived to supervise the implementation of the demolition orders, the students holed up on school roofs. Commander Moshe Givati, commander of the Central District police, said the policemen had no choice but to use force because the students hurled stones at them from the roofs. 'Abd Altaf Habib, head of the Al-Taiyiba local council, was furious that prior notice had not been not given about the implementation of the demolition orders.

9 Wounded in West Bank

TA0711182688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Seven people were wounded in the village of Salim and two others wounded in a stoning incident in the Nabulus cabah.

A woman was killed in a traffic accident in north Jerusalem. About an hour ago, an Israeli Subaru overturned on the 'Atarot road when it suddenly swerved. The driver of the Subaru swerved to avoid hitting a woman who was crossing the road. When the car overturned it hit the Arab pedestrian and killed her. The five passengers of the Subaru were only slightly hurt.

Our correspondent Shlomi Stein reports that a stone was hurled at a private Israeli vehicle traveling along the Jericho road, smashing its windshield. At about 1830 a stone was thrown at a No 949 bus traveling along the Shu'fat road. Its windshield was also smashed. There were no casualties in either incident.

Girl Killed, 19 Reported Wounded

TA0711195988 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Excerpt] A 14-year-old girl was killed and seven youths were wounded by IDF gunfire today in a violent clash in the village of Salim near Nabulus. Military sources reported that the incident occurred when inhabitants tried to prevent the soldiers from entering their village.

In another incident, two Arab youths were wounded in the Nabulus casbah. Arab sources said that all together 19 people were wounded today. Our correspondent Victor Nahmias reports that the IDF continued its wide-ranging operations to restore order in more than 50 villages in Judaea and Samaria. [passage omitted]

Curfew on Gaza Camp; Girl Shot

TA0811074188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] A curfew was imposed on the Al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip this morning. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a 9-year-old girl was injured by a plastic bullet in disturbances which took place in Gaza yesterday. Arab sources reported five casualties. [Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 8 November in a report by Oren Kohen and Shim'on Elqabetz on page eleven reports that "rioting in Gaza, particularly in the Al-Shati' and Jabalyah refugee camps, increased early yesterday evening.

According to Arab sources, six people were wounded by IDF gunfire: four in the Jabalyah refugee camp and two in Al-Shati'. The wounded include a 9-year-old girl, Naha Abu 'Ayda from Jabalyah, who was shot in the stomach and is hospitalized in the Al-Shifa' Hospital in fair condition. The other wounded are hospitalized in the Ahali Hospital in Gaza."]

The curfew imposed on the village of Tammun in Samaria yesterday, in the wake of the murder of a soldier at Moshav Massu'a, is continuing. The security forces blew up the murderer's house yesterday.

3 Wounded by Plastic Bullets

TA0811115288 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Three Khan Yunus youngsters, age 14 to 15, who were wounded by plastic bullets were brought to Al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus. The plastic bullets were fired by IDF soldiers in the course of dispersing riots in the area.

IDF Cuts Water Supply to Zayta

TA0811112288 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 8 Nov 88 p 11

[Report by Oren Kohen and Shim'on Elqabetz]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Reports from from the village of Zayta, south of Nabulus, claim that a large IDF force entered the village yesterday and detained 65 youths. In addition, all merchants, cattle owners, and olive oil press shop owners were summoned and given orders to pay fines and taxes. The villagers also said that the IDF has cut the water supply to the village until its residents pay their debts to the income tax authorities.

Similar operations were carried out yesterday in the western neighborhood of Tulkarm and in the village of Tammun. Arab sources in the village of Biddiya reported the uprooting of 101 olive trees as a punishment for 2 firebombs found in the village on Friday. [passage omitted]

West Bank School Closure Set for Extension

TA0711154388 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Nov 88 p 4

[Excerpt] The Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria will extend the duration of the school closure order which is about to expire on 15 November, the day of the Palestinian "independence declaration" to be published at the end of the PNC convention.

The decision on an alternative date for opening the schools will probably be left for the next defense minister. The Civilian Administration and the IDF attribute great importance to the question of reopening the schools, both because it is regarded as an efficient, increasingly effective means of pressure on the population, and because of the serious fear that the reopening will be taken advantage of by the students to organize riots. [passage omitted]

2 Gaza Strip 'Terrorists' Given Life Sentences

TA0711183288 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Two terrorists from the Gaza Strip were sentenced to life in prison by the Gaza military court. They were convicted of four murders, wounding a security man, and robberies, our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv reports.

Sinyurah To Publish New Arabic-Language Magazine

TA0811111488 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 8 Nov 88 p 3

[Report by David Baker]

[Text] Jerusalem—A new Arabic-language magazine is set to appear in Israel and its publisher says it will fill the voids in today's Palestinian press.

"We'll provide in-depth analysis of events in the Middle East and at home as well, with an emphasis on the Palestinian world," said Hanna Sinyurah, who is also editor of the East Jerusalem daily newspaper AL-FAJR.

The glossy 84-page weekly, called AL-USBU' AL-JADID [THE NEW WEEK in Arabic], will first be distributed in Jerusalem and the Galilee. Sinyurah has applied for a permit to distribute the magazine in the administered territories, but has yet to receive an answer from the Interior Ministry.

In launching his publication, Sinyurah will compete directly with AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI, a weekly magazine owned by Jack Khazmu. The East Jerusalem publication has a wide circulation, but Sinyurah said he can offer readers a more independent outlook.

"We'll be more diversified. Our magazine will be larger and express a more independent position," Sinyurah said.

AL-USBU' will also be printed in English, Sinyurah said, but he could not give a firm date for the first issue. The magazine will first print three thousand copies, said Sinyurah, adding he has enough financial backing to cover a two-year deficit.

Court Recommends Improvements at Qezi'ot Camp

TA0811094388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] This morning the High Court of Justice rejected an appeal by 14 administrative detainees who have been jailed in the Qezi'ot detention camp in the Negev in recent months. In their appeal the detainees demanded that they be transferred from Qezi'ot to lockup facilities in the territories. They also demanded that detention conditions in the camp be improved.

Three justices—Supreme Court President Me'ir Shamgar, Vice President Menahem Eylon, and Justice Gavri'el Bach—rejected the detainees' demand for a transfer to other lockup facilities, but in their ruling they recommended that detention conditions be improved and that the problem of overcrowding in the camp be solved. In the ruling, President Shamgar also recommended that the lockup facilities be renovated and called on the camp personnel to make sure that the detainees receive proper and fair treatment.

Muslims May Travel by Air to 'Small' Hajj

TA0711154888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] The Interior Ministry has begun registering the Muslim citizens wishing to make what is called the small hajj to Mecca in January. Only males over the age of 40 will be allowed to go, but there is no limit on the age of women.

For the first time, they will be able to travel by air, and not only by bus, as in the past.

Ministers Express Views on New Economic Measures

Finance Minister Explains Steps

JN0711094488 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Finance Minister Hanna 'Awdah said Sunday the recent economic measures adopted by the government were aimed at restoring economic balance, enhancing national self-reliance and ensuring a shift from a consuming society to a productive society through changing patterns of consumption and maintaining Jordan's credibility in honouring its financial commitments.

In an interview with Jordan Television and the Jordan News Agency, PETRA, 'Awdah said that the new measures "represent a new national approach that warrants the contribution and cooperation of all citizens to overcome the current stage and rectify its economic and financial situations and ensure the restoration of economic growth at high rates."

'Awdah said the components of Jordan's balance of payment and revenues come mainly from commodity exports, expatriate remittances, travel and tourist services and financial aid. In 1987, revenues from commodity exports totalled approximately JD 316 million while expatriates' transfers amounted JD 317 million, and travel and tourist services revenues totalled JD 196 million, he said. In addition, Jordan received JD 167 million in the form of financial aid to the government, he said.

Jordan's imports in 1987 amounted to JD 915 million while debt service payments exceeded JD 300 million, transfers of non-Jordanians working in Jordan totalled approximately JD 62 million, expenditure of Jordanians abroad for tourism purposes totalled more than JD 151 million in foreign currency, the minister said.

"If we compare Jordan's revenues in foreign currency with its payments we'll find that the revenues in such currency is less than the payments, indicating an imbalance that needs to be corrected," 'Awdah said.

Jordan's foreign payments fall under three categories—consumable commodities, raw materials and capital goods—'Awdah said.

Consumer products accounted for JD 334 million—of which JD 132 million were for food stuffs—raw materials accounted for JD 341 million and capital investments account for JD 240 million, the minister said.

"It will be difficult to reduce our imports of raw materials and capital goods, which have been exempted from customs duties because they are imported for use in local industries," 'Awdah said.

The minister also said that the government had no intentions to reduce its imports of foodstuffs.

He pointed out that the government measures banned imports worth JD 200 million in some consumer and durable products.

Asked whether the government would increase customs duties on some cars and electric equipment currently stored at ports and customs centres, 'Awdah said: "These will not be subject to any increase in customs duties if they are cleared before any new increases are imposed."

Goods whose imports are banned under the recent government measures, should meet the criteria provided in the import licences—that is, to have their letters of credit opened prior to Nov. 6—or those already shipped prior to that date, 'Awdah said.

On other items that will be taxable in accordance with new measures, the new tariff will be in force as of Nov. 6, he said.

The minister said that the Cabinet had set up a special office for price complaints at the Interior Ministry. The Cabinet also entrusted the ministers of industry and trade and finance to study the actual cost of commodities with a view to maintaining price control, he noted.

Non-Jordanian workers' transfers and expenses incurred by Jordanians who travel abroad for touristic purposes are, to a large extent, the main drain on foreign currency and that was why fees for issuing work permits have been raised," the minister said. [no open quotation marks as published]

Explaining the new measure to levy 10 per cent on all bills of four and five-star restaurants and hotels, 'Awdah said the government was concerned with reconsidering the public sector expenditure. The government's decision in this regard was taken to give the public sector a leading role in efforts to reduce the budget deficit, he said.

'Awdah noted that the recent measures apply to both the private and public sectors.

'Awdah also said that the government, after noting private sector investments at a given time, had resolved to maintain the investment levels at a certain point to enable the restoration of economic growth.

The government also adopted measures to rectify the situation of share-holding companies with the ultimate goal of increasing investments and providing a proper investment climate, he said.

'Awdah attributed the heavy financial burden on the national budget partly to exemptions and facilities offered by the government and to the support it provides

to local and municipal councils to improve their financial status. Despite all these measures, the governemnt has always honoured its financial commitments towards debt servicing, he said.

"All these burdens have inevitably left their impact on the balance of payment and on Jordan's reserve of foreign currency," he said.

"All the economic, financial and monetary policies adopted recently by the Cabinet have been designed to encourage savings and investment and local production, 'Awdah said. "All these measures will pay off in the near future," he said.

'Awdah also said Jordan's imports of the items whose importation is banned until the end of 1989, amount to $200 million broken down as follows:

Vehicles	$85 million
Televisions and antennas	$20 million
Video sets and cameras	$ 8 million
Refrigerators and freezers	$ 8 million
Air conditioners	$ 6 million
Tiles, marble, granite, ceramic, and wall decoration paper	$20 million
Household furniture, kitchens, offices, excluding medical surgery and veterinary equipment	$45 million
Chandeliers	$ 3 million
Microwave ovens	$ 1 million
Decorations and ornaments	$ 3 million
Artificial flowers	$ 1 million

Supply, Labor Ministers' Views

JN0711122588 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Nov 88 pp 1, 17

[By Ahmad Shakir]

[Excerpts] The ministers of labor, finance, and supply yesterday talked about the recent economic measures and their role in supporting the national economy and providing job opportunities. They also talked about providing basic commodities at their normal prices. [passage omitted]

Supply Minister 'Abd al-Salam Kan'an said that the government has decided to allocate 33,252,000 dinars in the 1989 budget to subsidize basic supply commodities in order to maintain their current prices without any change despite the increased world prices of these commodities and the changes in the dollar exchange rate.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, Kan'an said that all foodstuffs are available in the market and that the Ministry has a strategic reserve of these foodstuffs. He affirmed there is no intention to increase the prices of commodities fixed by the Ministry of Supply. These include: flour, bread, bread sticks, vermicelli and pasta, sugar, rice, lentils, vegetables, fresh fruits, ghee (Al-Ghazal), imported fresh meat, frozen meat, frozen fish, chickens, eggs, powdered milk, sesame oil, halvah, coffee, tomato juice, table salt, natural fruit juice, and beans sold by the Ministry.

Kan'an said that a committee has been set up comprising representatives from the Ministry of Supply and the Ministry of Industry and Trade to study the true costs of imported and domestic products in order to fix their prices. He said this study will be completed in the next few days. He said the committee will contact the Customs Department to learn about the true prices of imported items according to the bills of lading. It will also contact importers. Afterward, the Ministry will fix the prices of these items officially and will prosecute any merchant who does not abide by the fixed prices, as with basic commodities. [passage omitted]

Labor Minister Marwan Dudin told AL-DUSTUR that the government measure of increasing annual fees for work permits granted to Arab and foreign workers in sectors other than agriculture and nursing is aimed at reducing expenditure and transfers of hard currencies abroad, and at providing job opportunities for Jordanians.

He said the implementation of this decision began yesterday. He said every foreign worker or maid will be charged 300 dinars instead of 150. He said this decision includes workers who arrived in the country and have not yet paid fees. He said this also applies to the renewal of work permits.

He said the decision also applies to Arab workers. The annual fees for their work permits will be 100 dinars instead of 30.

The labor minister estimated the non-Jordanian manpower in Jordan at 100,000 Arab and foreign workers holding work permits, while there are tens of thousands of Arabs who do not hold such permits. He said there are 16,000 Sri Lankan and foreign maids. [passage omitted]

Industry Minister on Measures

JN0711200288 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi al-Tabba' has affirmed that we in Jordan are able to adapt ourselves to the recent developments that face our economic situation. This is not the first time the citizens are tested regarding their affiliation, awareness, and ability to shoulder the burden of responsibility.

In an interview with PETRA-JNA and the Jordanian television, he said: The new developments require citizens and officials alike to adopt a new lifestyle so to overcome this crisis. The circumstances under which we lived in ease and luxury have resulted in faulty consumer habits that do not suit our economic situation. He also pointed out that many of the banned commodities are available in the market in large quantities and that the measures will save $200 million a year—a sum which will be used to buy basic commodities for the citizens.

AL-DUSTUR Lauds Ban on Certain Imports

JN0611115588 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Nov 88 p 1, 17

[Editorial: "To Activate the Elements of Strength in Our National Economy"]

[Text] The government yesterday did very well in taking economic measures to activate the elements of strength in our national economy and move our society from a consumer stage to a stage of investment, saving, and fruitful production on the way to self-reliance.

The measures agreed on yesterday evening by the Council of Ministers are historic decisions in our economic life. They are also highly welcomed by every citizen in our country due to their noble aims and because these measures will move our national economy to a sound qualitative stage and elevate the elements of strength. Thus, it will double its level of independence and self-reliance.

The measures harmonize with the general national trend to move from a stage of great consumption to a stage of saving, investment, fruitful production, and changing the styles of wanton consumption of goods and services in our society; consumption which has created habits and lifestyles abnormal to us and turned us into a people that consume more than we produce. We squander our resources without thinking about the consequences on our life as individuals, a society, and government. The faults in these consumption values should be rectified and set on the right and sound path. The measures taken by the Council of Ministers yesterday evening definitely come within this framework.

Naturally, these measures will achieve the noble national goals for which they were set through real and active participation of the citizen who bears a large responsibility equal to that of the government in rectifying the situation to benefit the citizen and nation. The responsibility of the citizen lies in understanding the economic situation prevalent in the entire region and the necessity to develop the national economy in Jordan through effecting radical change in consumer trends which have exhausted our resources to the extent that we started to believe that we were living a reality, which does not express our reality as citizens in a country with limited possibilities.

Now that the mistakes committed by each of us have become clear, we must join hands with the government to participate in activating our economy, placing our economic life within its correct and true framework and leading a life in accordance with our country's cicumstances.

Banning the importation of certain luxuries and increasing the import tax on other types of consumer goods to limit their importation and guide their uses, in addition to increasing our exports, will definitely lead to decreasing the Kingdom's payments in hard currency. Imports—especially luxuries—have caused pressure on the Kingdom's foreign currency revenues.

We will undoubtedly notice here that the measures taken by the Council of Ministers consider the abilities of the low-income group. The Council of Ministers decided to decrease the electricity and water consumption tariffs thereby enabling our citizens to face the demands of daily life. This is something we appreciate from our wise government.

Undoubtedly, the measures taken yesterday have given our economy a strong push to allow it to adapt to the prevalent circumstances in our region as a result of circumstances beyond our control and thus, to plan and control the state general budget in the coming years. This control aims to decrease the deficit in this budget while honoring the financial commitments of the country to preserve its good reputation and trust among the international financial circles. This is a trust we pride ourselves on, and we must preserve it under all circumstances and conditions because it manifests the trust in Jordan under its wise and pioneering Hashenite leadership.

Praises Steps Against Violators

JN0511082588 Amman in Arabic 5 Nov 88 pp 1, 23

["Today's Word" column: "Those Who Cheat Us Do Not Belong to Us"]

[Text] It was natural and expected for the government to stop the recent violations in the market by some people. A group of merchants, industrialists, and clearing agents

have taken advantage of the passing circumstances in the region that affected our national economy and begun raising prices and tampering with specifications, weights, and customs declarations.

Such shameful practices and conduct are far removed from the ethics and lofty traditions of our people—characterized by solidarity and cohesion in hard times. Therefore, it was inevitable for Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i to use his role as general military governor to refer all these tamperers and adulterators, who departed from the norms of our society, to the military court.

The establishment of a special office at the Interior Ministry to receive citizens' complaints is yet another deterrent, so that such phenomena, alien as they are to our economic and social environment, can be followed up and contained. It will also prevent the expansion of these isolated violations. Indeed, it will stop them and allow the adoption of the strongest measures against those who might consider perpetrating such violations—alien to the nature and ethics of our society.

As we support the government in its measures and pay tribute to its determination to punish severely all those who practice adulteration against our citizens and tamper with our daily bread, we hope that the sons of this homeland will demonstrate concerted efforts against the violations of that small group, which departed the norms of our society, through boycotting them, reporting their cheating, and intensifying their social isolation. This will perhaps deter all who enjoy harvesting illegal gains and profits.

Gen Lahd Wounded by Member of Communist Party

Suspect Arrested

NC0711205588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, was wounded this evening. An Israeli military source has stated that Maj Gen Lahd was wounded in an attack near Marj 'Uyun and was immediately taken to [word indistinct] Hospital in Haifa.

A source close to Lahd said that a woman shot Lahd with a pistol in his house this evening and that he was wounded in the shoulder. The source said that the woman was a frequent visitor to Lahd's house. She has been arrested and is being interrogated. The source said that Maj Gen Lahd's condition gives no cause for concern.

Communist Party Claims Attempt

NC0811060088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] The Lebanese Communist Party has claimed reponsibility for the assassination attempt against Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, in his residence in Marj 'Uyun last night. Lahd escaped an assassination attempt when a woman shot him with a pistol in his home, where she had been seen frequently.

It has been reported that the woman is Suha Bisharah from Dayr Mimis. She fired two shots at Maj Gen Lahd at the end of her visit to his house at 2000. He was wounded in his shoulder and his chest, and was taken to Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

In a telephone call to Lahd's residence in Marj 'Uyun, we learned that his condition is not serious and that the woman has been arrested and is being interrogated.

Further on 'Culprit'

NC0811063188 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Major General Antoine Lahd, South Lebanese Army commander, escaped an attempt on his life yesterday evening. The SLA commander suffered superficial wounds when a 20-year-old girl shot him twice with a 6.35-mm pistol. He was immediately taken to a hospital, where he received the necessary treatment. According to medical reports, Maj Gen Lahd's condition gives no cause for concern and he is improving steadily.

The girl was immediately detained and underwent interrogation. Initial reports indicate that the culprit belongs to a pro-Syrian leftist organization. She hails from Dayr Mimis, lives in Judaydat Marj 'Uyun, and works as a sports trainer.

Maj Gen Lahd received several figures, who visited him to reassure themselves about his health and to denounce the ugly assassination attempt.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Communist Party has claimed responsibility for the attempt.

Resistance Front Statement

NC0811064888 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] The hand of the resisting people will not forgive and the eyes of the patriots, the progressive powers, and all the honest people in the homeland will not turn blind. This was asserted last night by the resisting heroine Suha Fawwaz Bisharah when she carried out the death sentence issued by the people against agent Antoine Lahd. This heroic operation proves that the hand which reached the traitor Lahd is capable of reaching all the various symbols of treason and partition.

The heroine attacked and shot agent Lahd in his residence at Marj 'Uyun. He was taken to Rambam Hospital in Haifa for treatment. The heroine was arrested and is being interrogated.

The National Resistance Front has issued a statement on the heroic operation. It says: The flower of the south has carried out the death sentence against the big traitor Antoine Lahd. The daughter of the faithful south, the proud daughter of Dayr Mimis, the heroine of the Lebanese National Resistance Front, Suha Fawwaz Bisharah of the Martyr Lula 'Abbud Group, carried out the death sentence issued by the front against traitor Antoine Lahd at 2000 Monday evening, 7 November 1988.

This heroic operation coincides with the 6th anniversary of the establishment of the National Resistance Front to underline the historic importance of the statement which announced the birth of the front on 16 September 1982, and pledged to inflame the soil under the feet of the Zionist occupiers and their agents.

Antoine Lahd has become the symbol of treason. This operation against him signifies our people's and our front's determination to uproot the traitors. This heroic operation responds to the front's decision to organize the uprising in the occupied Lebanese territories to embrace the uprising of the heroic Palestinian people, so that they both meet with the steadfast powers in our nation, with Syria, with the Jamahiriyah, and with all the powers of the national liberation movement in the Arab homeland until victory.

The statement adds: The Lebanese National Resistance Front will continue to be a leading factor in this movement. The resistance was formed to gain victory, and it will be victorious. If the issue of the south has been ignored during the Lebanese presidential election, and some thought that the resistance front had nothing to do

with the so-called consitutional deadline, this heroic operation against the major traitor Antoine Lahd proves that the front is the most prominent voter and that the issue of the south is the major issue in question.

Traitor Antoine Lahd had been preparing for the proclamation of a partitionist state which backs the partitionist, sectarian, and isolationist government of the country. The fate of this traitor will also be the fate of all the other partitionist brains in the country. The hand which has reached traitor Lahd join traitor Anwar al-Sadat, Bashir al-Jumayyil, and all traitors. Glory and immortality to our hero martyrs.

The reisting Suha Fawwaz Bisharah was born in Dayr Mimis in 1967. She joined the Lebanese Communist Party in 1982, and the National Lebanese Front in 1987. She used a Russian 5.5-mm pistol in carrying out the front's sentence against traitor Lahd.

'Leftist' Forces on Alert

NC0811142888 Paris AFP in English 1425 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Beirut, Nov 8 (AFP)—Lebanese leftist forces were on maximum alert Tuesday ahead of anticipated Israeli retaliation for an attack Monday on the leader of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA), leftist sources said.

The National Resistance Front said it had mobilized some 1,500 fighters in southern Lebanon and the eastern Al-Biqa' Valley after one of its members, the Lebanese Communist Party, claimed responsibility for the shooting of General Antoine Lahd. [passage omitted]

PNSF Official Escapes Assassination Attempt

NC0811065288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] The PNSF has announced that its secretary in Beirut, Abu Fadi Hammad, escaped an assassination attempt last night. A booby-trapped Dodge automobile, which was parked in a wasteland south of the Mar Ilyas Palestinian camp in West Beirut, was blown up by remote control as Hammad was driving out of the camp. He received various injuries and was immediately rushed to a West Beirut hospital.

According to security reports, three Syrian soldiers also were wounded in the explosion. Immediately afterwards the Syrian occupation forces threw a cordon around the site of the blast as well as all the roads leading to it.

'Awn Says He Will Never Accept Syrian Presence

NC0511114688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] In a press interview published today, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn said the majority of Arab countries support Lebanon in rejecting Syrian presence in the country.

He told the Abu Dhabi-based AL-BAYAN newspaper that he will never accept the presence of Syrian forces in Lebanese territories. He added that his envoys have conveyed this position to the Arab countries that support the legitimate Lebanese stand. He called on those in the western area [of Beirut] not to expect his recognition of the Syrian presence in Lebanon, stressing that he will raise the issue at the Arab summit, if it is held.

Ja'ja' Comments on Syrian-U.S. Agreement

NC0511155088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' has stated that the Lebanese Forces were formed to prevent hegemony, to confront the Syrians and other parties, and also to confront attempts to establish a system that is worse than the present Lebanese system. He said he believes the Lebanese system actually collapsed in 1975 and added that he regards the Council of MInisters under General Michel 'Awn as the primary executive power in Lebanon.

In interviews with the magazines LA REVUE DU LIBAN and AL-HAWADITH, Dr Ja'ja' explained that existing Arab moves concerning Lebanon demonstrate the degree of isolation which Syria is experiencing and the extent of the Arab rejection of the Syrian role.

Dr Ja'ja' pointed out that the agreement between Al-Asad and Murphy ended when 23 September passed without the election of Deputy Mikha'il Dahir. He said the effects of this agreement are also over.

Ja'ja' said he doubts that there will be any security eruptions.

Dr Ja'ja' issued an appeal to rescue Lebanon and ease the Syrian pressure on it. He announced that surrender to partition is not in the cards. He said: Our sole option is liberation. We support a unified Lebanon which is 10,452 square km in size.

Ja'ja' voiced the opinion that there is a very considerable convergence of Syrian and Israeli interests. Concerning the status of existing and future relations with Syria, Dr Ja'ja' said: If Syria continues to occupy Lebanon and persists in its attempts to exercise control over it, we will continue to have contradictions and hostility. If it acts as a reasonable state and deals with Lebanon as a free,

sovereign, and independent state, then the nature of our relations with it will certainly change, and there will be no cause for coolness or hostility.

Dr Ja'ja' declared that he is opposed to [Palestinian] settlement in Lebanon.

Junblatt Says PSP Will Not Return to Beirut

NC0611132588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In an interview with REUTER and VISNEWS, Minister Walid Junblatt, leader of the PSP, has stated: In the history of the Lebanese civil war, this is the first time we have talked about partition. Partition will bring a horrendous calamity upon the Christians as a whole and will lead to a civil war in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Minister Junblatt also said: The only initiative that can take Lebanon out of the crisis is the election of a president who would approve radical political reforms. He supported the U.S.-Syrian agreement, regarding it the basis for achieving minimum reconciliation.

Minister Junblatt considers General Michel 'Awn's assumption of power a military coup. He said: General 'Awn assumed power and brought the country to partition.

Minister Junblatt favors organization of the Lebanese Army in the western areas by a high-ranking officer. He said: We have chosen a nationalist officer to unite the Army and to urge all nationalist and honest officers not to enter into the partitionist venture. He said the only militia—if this expression is appropriate—is the Lebanese Army under Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib. We are prepared to have our military formations under his command or to merge with the Lebanese Army. He said his party elements will not return to Beirut.

Minister Junblatt has asked Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr to return to the summer headquarters of the Maronite Patriarchate in northern Lebanon via Damascus upon the conclusion of his current visit to the Vatican.

Asked about his opinion on Lebanon's future, Minister Junblatt said: I am not optimistic; I am worried.

Minister Junblatt has accused some Arab regimes, particularly that of Iraq, of daily sending military reinforcements to the eastern area. He said: Ships are transporting ammunition, arms, and tanks. This will lead to the ruination of the Lebanese.

Junblatt Rejects Partition, 'Christian Canton'

NC0611130688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] In an interview with REUTER and VISNEWS TV NEWS AGENCY, Minister Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, has stated: In the history of the Lebanese civil war, this is the first time we have talked about partition. Partition will bring a horrendous calamity upon the Christians as a whole and will lead to a civil war in the Middle East.

Minister Junblatt emphasized that the establishment of a small Christian canton in Lebanon is unacceptable and the Christians have to acknowledge that the Muslims are the majority in Lebanon. We cannot be thrown into the sea.

Minister Junblatt called for suffocating the isolationist, separatist phenomenon in its cradle. He said: If—God forbid—religious or sectarian division succeeds in Lebanon, all the Arab states—be they republics, monarchies, socialist, or reactionary—will not be able to avert subsequent divisions—beginning in Beirut and ending in Baghdad after passing through several capitals.

On the measures he deems appropriate to prevent partition in Lebanon, Minister Junblatt said: There are political measures and we hope we continue within the confines of political measures. But, he added: Certainly there are measures that could be violent and this is very dangerous. I believe that everybody has tried the language of the gun and found it to be useless. However, if we are compelled to defend ourselves, we shall do so. He reiterated: We hope that we will not have to come to a military explosion as this would bring calamities and destruction to all.

Junblatt on Israeli Elections, Al-Qadhdhafi Stand

NC0711081688 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Excerpts] PSP leader Walid Junblatt has warned that the partition of Lebanon and the establishment of a Christian canton will lead the Christians to a horrible catastrophe. He also asserted that such a development will lead to a civil war in the Middle East. In an interview with REUTER and VISNEWS, Junblatt called for strangling the isolationist phenomenon in its cradle. [passage omitted]

Junblatt expressed his expectation that the area will be engulfed in violence if the Likud bloc forms the new Israeli government. He said: It seems that the grouping in eastern Beirut had been expecting the Likud to come to power. It also seems that several developments will materialize soon and that we may be dragged into the whirlpool of violence and civil war.

He said that Shim'on Peres as well as the Likud bloc agree that Lebanon should be partitioned, add that the Likud is more serious in this regard. He asserted that their basic plan is an Israeli one, which aims to partition Lebanon and [word indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Junblatt expressed the belief that there has been a certain change in the Libyan stand, saying: Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's recent stand on the situation in Lebanon surprises us and offends the nationalist rank. He asserted that the actual stand in the al-Jamahiryah supports the nationalist powers, both financially and practically.

'Usayran on Partition, Al-Qadhdhafi Remarks

NC0711184288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Former Chamber of Deputies Speaker 'Adil 'Usayran, who has been charged by the Al-Sana'i' grouping [Al-Huss government] with the so-called reorganization of the army brigades in the occupied territories, has asserted that the appointment of a new army commander would be tantamount to partition of the military institution. In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH, carried by the AL-SUHUFIYAH NEWS AGENCY, 'Usayran said that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's remarks on the legitimacy of General 'Awn's government are correct; he expressed readiness to make any move that will serve the interest of the homeland.

Asked whether he considers Gen 'Awn's government illegal, he said: I am still studying this subject. Asked for his view on the link between the Lebanese election and the U.S. presidential election, 'Usayran said: George Bush is our hope because he is the only one who has examined our crisis from all its aspects.

Commenting on Richard Murphy's statement on the likelihood of partitioning Lebanon, he declared: Let Mr Murphy say whatever he likes. We are against the partition of Lebanon and we are holding on to full unity. Responding to a question on the eastern area, especially after 3 October, 'Usayran said: Nothing has happened to Amin al-Jumayyil. There he is now, in France.

Israeli Gunboat Intercepts Greek Cargo Ship

NC0711121788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] According to navigation sources, an Israeli gunboat today intercepted a Greek-flagged cargo ship, which was trying to enter Sidon port. According to the reports, the cargo ship, which was carrying tiles, was searched thoroughly before it was permitted to resume sailing.

Al-Zu'bi, Dascalescu Hold Official Talks 7 Nov

JN0811084088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus— Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi this evening hosted a dinner banquet in honor of Romanian Prime Minister Constantine Dascalescu and his accompanying delegation.

The dinner banquet was attended by the deputy prime minister for services affairs, the deputy prime minister for economic affairs, some ministers, the Damascus governor, the Romanian ambassador and embassy staff, and senior guests.

At 1700 today, Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Constantine Dascalescu. The meeting was attended by Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, Yasin Rajjuh, minister of state for cabinet affairs, and Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade. During this meeting, Al-Zu'bi and Dascalescu held cordial talks and reviewed bilateral relations and joint cooperation and ways to bolster and develop it in all fields.

Following this, a broad official session of talks began between the Syrian side, headed by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and the Romanian side, headed by Prime Minister Constantine Dascalescu. Members of both delegations attended.

At the beginning of the session, Al-Zu'bi welcomed Dascalescu and the accompanying delegation. He reiterated the ties of friendship and cooperation connecting the two peoples and countries.

Al-Zu'bi referred to the major development in bilateral relations, which reached an advance stage based on the directives of Presidents Nicolae Ceausescu and Hafiz al-Asad, the accords achieved within the framework of these relations, and the summit visits exchanged between Romania and Syria.

Al-Zu'bi said: Syrian-Romanian friendship is very deep and strong and we endeavor to bolster and develop it continuously. The prime minister presented a review of the major developments that took place in all fields in Syria, particularly in economic development through the implementation of major development projects. He referred to the strong cooperation between Syria and Romania in implementing a large number of common projects. He stressed the need to develop and strengthen this cooperation in all fields.

Dascalescu then spoke. He expressed his gratitude and that of the accompanying delegation for the cordial welcome they had received. He emphasized that his first visit to Syria will provide the opportunity to exchange opinions and ideas. The talks between the two friendly countries will bolster cooperation between them and entrench its goals.

He also referred to Romanian achievements in all fields of development. He reiterated Romania's stand calling for the termination of the arms race, people's involvement in decisions that determine the destiny of the human race, and strengthening the steps that lead to a just peace in this region.

Dascalescu added: We are confident of both countries' ability to develop economic and trade relations and to deepen the foundations on which goals of all friendship and cooperation steps between them are based. The positive results achieved by cooperation steps at the directives of Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Nicolae Ceausescu are evident in all common projects that are being implemented.

During this session, all matters connected to the implementation of common projects were discussed. Also all stages of cooperation between the two countries were assessed.

A general review was made of all economic, trade, and technical subjects of interest to both countries. Joint specialized committees were formed to follow up the all the issues discussed during this session in order to achieve further improvement in all forms of cooperation betwen the two countries.

The Romanian prime minister extended an invitation to Al-Zu'bi to visit Romania. He accepted it gratefully at a date to be fixed later.

Afghanistan

AFP Says Soviet Troops Arrive in Jalalabad

BK0811115088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1131 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Nov. 8 (AFP)—Soviet troops have arrived in Jalalabad to help Afghan Government forces stem a rebel advance on the key garrison town close to the border with Pakistan, diplomats and resistance sources said here Tuesday.

A 60-vehicle convoy packed with Red Army troops arrived in the eastern garrison town from Kabul on Thursday, Western diplomats here said, citing colleagues in the Afghan capital.

The latest convoy of 16 trucks, carrying Soviet soldiers, and heavy artillery pieces set out from Kabul over the weekend, they said, without giving any estimates for the number of troops involved.

Mujahidin sources in Pakistan said several hundred Soviet troops had reached Jalalabad with at least 120 tanks and other military vehicles.

The latest development follows a string of reverses for the Kabul government in the province of Nangarhar, where Jalalabad is located, according to mujahidin sources here.

The rebel threat to Jalalabad increased last week after the resistance captured the border post of Towr Kham and the posts of Batsawul and Hazar Now—located along the 95-kilometre (55-mile) Jalalabad-Towr Kham road.

It became menacing on Monday when the mujahidin captured the major Afghan Army Base at Ghani Kheyl, 35 kilometres (22 miles) east of Jalalabad, and a small post nearby at Hambar Khanah on Tuesday.

According to latest resistance reports, 70 Afghan troops and 26 mujahidin guerrillas were killed in fighting for the base.

A resistance source said that with the fall of Ghani Kheyl, Soviet troops might join in the fighting as the "big battle for Jalalabad is now imminent."

The rebels were also attacking the bases of Sarowbi and Surkhakan to the west of Jalalabad and mujahidin sources quoted a guerrilla field commander as saying that Soviet troops had been spotted in Sarowbi.

Diplomats said the rebels had control of Jalalabad-Towr Kham road while resistance sources said fighting was now located around Jalalabad and that Samar Kheyl base which had both been attacked with rocket fire. [sentence as received] Samar Kheyl is seen as the last line of defense for Jalalabad.

Resistance sources also claimed that the mujahidin had cut the 150-kilometre (95-mile) roiad link between Jalalabad and Kabul.

Mujahidin sources here had said Monday that Soviet troops had been sent recently to Qandahar, the second largest Afghan city, to aid Kabul troops under heavy attack from the rebels.

The new troops wore "uniforms different from those of the Afghan Army," and were believed to come from the Soviet border regions of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, one source said. [passage omitted]

USSR Envoy Vorontsov Meets With Legislators

LD0511160388 Moscow TASS in English 1519 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul November 5 TASS—A meeting of USSR, First Deputy Foreign Minister and USSR Ambassador to the Republic of Afghanistan, Yuliy Vorontsov, with members of the commissions for foreign affairs of both chambers of the republic's National Council was held in the building of Afghan parliament today.

Yuliy Vorontsov emphasized that the Soviet foreign policy is not aimed now at achieving some propaganda gains. It is aimed at real and effective arrangements on the vital problems agitating humanity. And life shows that it is precisely the achievement of real results that is the best propaganda.

Vorontsov noted that the elimination of regional military conflicts, above all the conflict on Afghan soil, is one of the cardinal tasks of Soviet diplomacy at the given stage. Progress is already apparent in many directions, but a great deal of difficulties, including the settlement of the Afghan problem, are ahead.

Vorontsov pointed to Afghanistan's and the USSR's serious and constructive approach to the observance of the spirit and the letter of the Geneva accords, while it becomes ever more apparent that the other sides, signatories to the accords, do not intend to implement their provisions. Those who talked about their interest in peace on Afghan soil began large-scale supplies of up-to-date weapons to units of the opposition. So there is direct evidence of deception on the part of Pakistan and the USA. This is a very serious blow at the Geneva accords, the blow which almost torpedoes them. The situation which developed should be most closely studied by the world public.

Whereas the Afghan leadership at every level declares for peaceful talks and settlement of the conflict by political means, the other side insists on the continuation of war and considerably stepped up hostilities over the recent month, Vorontsov said. In the opinion of the USSR and the Afghan leadership the time has come for a new international discussion of every aspect of the situation

in Afghanistan and around it, as external forces—Pakistan and the USA—are involved. They edge on the opposition to the continuation of the bloodshed. The United Nations secretary-general could play an invaluable role in this discussion. He had made a serious contribution to the ending of the Iran-Iraq conflict.

The USSR ambassador emphasized that the deliveries of new long-range powerful weapons to Afghanistan is a measure taken in reply to the intensification of the military operations by the opposition. The protection against attack is a sovereign right of the government of the Republic of Afghanistan, the USSR ambassador said. He noted at the same time that the course at national reconciliation, talks as the sole way of resolving the conflict remains the basis of the Afghan leadership's policy.

Calls for New Talks

LD0711220488 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1457 GMT 5 Nov 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A meeting has taken place in Kabul between Comrade Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister and USSR ambassador to the Republic of Afghanistan, and members of the Foreign Affairs Commissions of both chambers of the Afghan Republic's National Council.

The ambassador pointed to Afghanistan's and the USSR's serious and constructive approach toward observing the spirit and letter of the Geneva accords.

In the opinion of the USSR and Afghan leadership, the Soviet diplomat added, the time has come for a new international discussion on every aspect of the situation in Afghanistan and around it, as external forces—Pakistan and the United States—are involved in edging on the opposition to continue the bloodshed.

Comrade Vorontsov noted that the deliveries of new peaceful long-range weapons to Afghanistan was a measure taken in response to the opposition's intensified military operations. Protection against attack is the sovereign right of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, he said.

Najibullah, Gen Gromov, Vorontsov Speeches

LD0811094388 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 7 BAKHTAR—President of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA CC, Najibullah participated today at the ceremony held in the headquarters of the Soviet limited military contingent on the occasion of the seventy first anniversary of the Socialist October Revolution.

President Najibullah on behalf of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, the PDPA and people of Afghanistan expressed his gratitude to the brave sons of the Soviet people who along with the Afghans devoted their life for independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan.

President Najibullah delivered a speech in regard to the Socialist October Revolution and its effects on the Afghan-Soviet friendship.

Pointing to the peaceful policy of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, the president added: The Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union fulfil their commitments in regard to the full observance of the Geneva agreements aimed for the maintenance of peace in the region.

This fact is a manifestation of the common sense and full harmony of the opinions of the leaderships of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. It shows the high level or responsibility of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union in settlement of the regional conflicts and maintenance of peace and stability in the region.

General Gromov, commander of the Soviet limited military contingent in Afghanistan thanked President Najibullah for his participation in the meeting and spoke on the precise observance of the Geneva agreements by the Soviet Union, the peaceful policy of that country for solution of the regional conflicts, disarmament and the policy of restructuring "perestroyka".

Vorontsov, the Soviet ambassador in Kabul, in his speech, congratulated the soldiers, officers and personnel of the Soviet limited military contingent on the occasion and appreciated the successful fulfilment of their internationalist duties in Afghanistan.

He said: The remaining military units of the Soviet Union will return to their country under favourable conditions. But the Soviet Union will always assist the people of Afghanistan in all spheres.

Wakil Interviewed on Missiles, Withdrawal

LD0711173588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil by unidentified correspondent in Kabul on 6 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil, as our compatriots know, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution—without debate or ballot—which expressed the UN members' complete understanding of the Afghan situation. I would like you to highlight the resolution's important points.

[Wakil] The major elements in any peaceful political solution of the Afghan situation must include accepting the Geneva accords, asking the concerned parties to

observe and implement the accords, and safeguarding the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, and nonaligned status of Afghanistan. A constructive dialogue among Afghans on forming a broad-based government is needed, while the right of the Afghan people to choose a political system and determine their own form of government without foreign interference must be respected.

We must express appreciation for the continuous efforts by the UN secretary general and his personal representative to achieve a political solution to the Afghan situation. A series of tasks must be given to the UN secretary general in order to ensure an acceleration of the implementation of the Geneva accords.

These points and the recent resolution were among the major topics of the 43d session of the UN General Assembly meeting on the Afghan situation. The 14-section resolution was approved amid optimism for a political solution to the Afghan situation. The resolution includes provisions and elements which are, on the whole the result of the atmosphere created by the national reconciliation policy and the situation following the signing of the Geneva agreements.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan recently claimed that the UN General Assembly resolution on Afghanistan is the upshot of an understanding between him and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze. All UN members, as expressed by His Excellency Dante Caputo, president of the 43d UN General Assembly session, understand that this resolution attributes to all UN members, including Afghanistan, which has taken place in light of the peace-loving policy of the Republic of Afghanistan and the honesty of the leadership of our country and the Soviet Union on the observance and implementation of the Geneva Accords, and the September speech of the head of the Afghan delegation to the United Nations. [sentence as heard]

However, in his speech the Pakistani delegate did everything possible to change the favorable attitudes of UN members. However, those efforts were fruitless because the world is completely aware of the realities of the national reconciliation policy and the honest measures of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union to implement the agreements. The Republic of Afghanistan welcomes the recent resolution and considers it a major, important measure for a political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. The resolution can only be implemented if Pakistan and the United States take it into account, cooperate, and make an effort to enforce it.

The other important point is that unlike the previous 10 years when days were spent discussing the situation around Afghanistan, there was no discussion or debate this year. Unlike previous years, when a draft resolution was presented by Pakistan and a few other countries, the draft of this resolution was made with the participation and understanding of all UN members, including the Republic of Afghanistan.

[Correspondent] Mr Foreign Minister, with your permission I would like to ask you another question. I would like to know what role was played by the Republic of Afghanistan in drafting the resolution and what diplomatic activities were carried out.

[Wakil] Over the years of the undeclared war, The Republic of Afghanistan has always believed that the only way to solve the Afghan problem is dialogue and negotiations between the concerned parties. This principled position by the Republic of Afghanistan has been supported in all international forums and gatherings by the people of the world. We all saw the results of our efforts and their positive impact at the conference of nonaligned foreign ministers in Nicosia. The minutes of the 43d General Assembly session also prove our claim.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry, as an organ executing Afghan foreign policy, took a series of specific actions to inform world public opinion of the current reality in the country, the principled position of the Republic of Afghanistan on resolving the situation around Afghanistan, and the increasing foreign interference—particularly by the Pakistani Government—in Afghan internal affairs, particularly the role of Pakistan in this respect. All this was done to obtain support for the Republic of Afghanistan.

Afghan delegations pressed this aim during the nonaligned foreign ministers conference in Nicosia; the international conference in Oslo on refugees, returnees, and displaced people in southern Africa; and the 43d session of the UN General Assembly. Good-will delegations were sent to a number of countries and messages and letters were sent to the secretaries general of the United Nations and other international organizations and the heads of nonaligned and Islamic countries. Another factor in garnering international support for the approval of the UN general assembly resolution was the Republic of Afghanistan's honest implementation of the Geneva accords and the revelation of irrefutable evidence of repeated violations of the accords by Pakistan and the United States. [passage omitted]

The delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan participated in the work of the 43d session of the UN General Assembly and organized its activity with the spirit created in Nicosia. As a result of positions taken by the sides concerned, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Soviet Union, and the United States, a decision was made to approve a resolution on Afghanistan's present situation. This resolution would be completely different from previous ones, with a unity of view and without any debate and discussion, with optimism and goodwill as

well as with the hope that the concerned sides will fulfill their responsibility without any precondition for ensuring peace and stability and removal of tension in this region.

[Correspondent] I would like to hear your views on the possibilities and hopes that this resolution has created for the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan and the implementation of the Geneva accords, which are currently being constantly violated by Pakistan.

[Wakil] Very well. The resolution approved by the UN General Assembly contains very important issues in connection with a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan. It will give new impetus to the implementation of the Geneva accords. [passage omitted] However, Pakistan's actions have borne out the anxieties that it signed the Geneva accords only to bring about the withdrawal of the limited Soviet contingents and to intensify its interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan. If Pakistan had hoped with this approach to ensure the continuation of war and bloodshed and to harm our country's territorial integrity, we warn that we will foil their hopes, just as our forefathers did.

Pakistan's interference and its equipping the extremists with modern lethal weapons has forced us to equip our Armed Forces with modern weapons. If Pakistan and the United States had honestly observed the Geneva accords, as they have been observed by Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, peace and stability would have been ensured in our country to this day. We have made all the necessary concessions and have always supported the dialogue and negotiation with Afghans, in conformity with the spirit of the recent resolution.

We hope that the sides concerned, particularly Pakistan and the United States, end their violation of the Geneva accords and make efforts toward ensuring peace. Otherwise, not only this resolution but also the Geneva accords will remain no more than scraps of paper.

[Correspondent] What is your opinion about the suspension of the withdrawal of the limited Soviet contingents from Afghanistan?

[Wakil] As it has been proved to you, to our compatriots, and to all the world, Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have observed each of the provisions of the Geneva accords. You know that Pakistan and the United States did not act the same way toward their commitments. They acted as if they did not have any responsibility toward the Geneva accords. The violations of the provisions of the Geneva accords by Pakistan and its patrons are obvious to all. We have repeatedly emphasized in our statements and expressions that if the opposite side continued such an irresponsible approach and did not pay attention to its commitments we would inevitably adopt necessary measures in accordance with the circumstances and situation.

The opposition considered these assertations as maneuvers and propaganda. The existing military-political situation as a result of the intensification of the opposition's operations in the cities and residential areas and its persistent action for a limited military solution required a strong response. We have a stronge sense of responsibility toward the defense of the country's independence and sovereignty, ensuring security and creating normal living conditions for our fellow citizens and compatriots.

The suspension of the withdrawal of the remaining limited Soviet contingents can only be considered as a logical and necessary reaction and as a responsible approach in connection with the present military-political situation in and around the country. [passage omitted] I should say explicitly that this action does not mean any change in our policy. We will not retreat even one inch from the national reconciliation policy.

The provisions of the Geneva accords do not refer only to the withdrawal of the limited Soviet contingents, otherwise it would not have been necessary for this creditable international document to be signed by four countries. We will fulfill all our responsibility and commitments to the Geneva accords. However, it is necessary and important that the other sides should not consider the Geneva accords to be unilateral, and should observe them comprehensively.

[Correspondent] My final question: The Army of the Republic of Afghanistan has recently obtained modern weapons. How do you assess this?

[Wakil] As you know, the Republic of Afghanistan, as an independent and sovereign country, as a member of the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, and other creditable international organizations, and as a country whose national flaq flies in most capitals of the world, has a historical, national, and conscientious responsibility to defend the country's territorial integrity, national soveriegnty, and independence. [passage omitted]

We created non-military regions. However, instead of being used for the return of the emigrants, these regions became full of depots of lethal and destructive weapons such as Blowpipes and (?Stingers), long-range guns, surface-to-surface missiles, and mortars. And these regions were used for the intensification of war and bloodshed. Let everyone know that no forces will be able to impose a military solution on us.

We will equip our Army as the conditions and circumstances require, with modern weapons capable of ensuring the safe defense of the Republic of Afghanistan, and capable of foiling foreign aggression and interference. This will continue to apply in future, too. This is fully in accordance with our military doctrine, which has a

defensive nature. We should say clearly that the equipping of the Afghan Army with modern weapons is by no means against the provisions of the Geneva accords and does not violate them.

BAKHTAR Defends New Weapons for Armed Forces

LD0811072088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0442 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov 7 BAKHTAR—The Soviet Union has announced its decision on suspending the return of its remaining limited military contingent from the Republic of Afghanistan to their peaceloving country.

This measure has been taken at such a time which parallel to it the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, for combating ever increasing attacks of oppositions, was forced to get further armaments. The delivery of which has been considered, by BBC, Islamabad, and other Western countries a violation from the Geneva agreements.

As the deputy foreign minister of the Soviet Union in his press conference held on 4 November in Moscow said that the reason for the recent assistance of the Soviet Union to the Republic of Afghanistan and suspension of the process of the return of the remaining contingent of the Soviet Union back home is hidden [as received] to the gross violations by Pakistan, with the support of the United States, from Geneva agreements and attempts made by Afghan oppositions for intensifying their subversive activities aimed for demoralising civilians and (?destruction) of situation in Afghanistan. It must be added here that during the last nine years the Afghan extremists have been equipped with modern armaments. Supply of such munitions to extremist are continuing in full speed even today.

As a result of the extremists rocket strikes and explosions, since last April, seven hundred and fifty civilians were killed, five hundred and fifty residential houses and over fifty state buildings were demolished in Kabul alone. The Geneva agreements are quadrilateral and undertakings of signatories are equal before them. In relation to these agreements it must be said here that importance of these agreements is in this fact that signatories must not interfere in the internal affairs of the other one. These agreements as the Western mass medias claim, are not limited to the return of the Soviet contingent home. If it was so, then it was up to the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union to take decisons in this respect. The basic objectives of these agreements are cessation of war, ensurance of national accord and creation of a broad-based government in Afghanistan.

Those in the Western countries who consider recent measures of the Soviet Union a violation from the Geneva agreements must realise that none of the articles of these agreements reject process of suspension of the return of military contingent of the Soviet Union and acceptance of military assistance by the Government of Afghanistan.

The measures taken by the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union are directed for the ensurance of peace and security in Afghanistan. It must not be further allowed the warmongers to sow seeds of murder, arson and plunder in the Republic of Afghanistan in the future.

Foreign Ministry Submits Violations Notices

113th Notice Handed Over

LD0611065488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0448 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov 5 BAKHTAR—The one hundred thirteenth notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant violations by Pakistan from the provisions of Geneva agreements was handed over to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here today.

In the notice information on destructive operations committed by extremists, in collaboration with Pakistan, especially long-range rocket attacks and planting of bombs resulting to the murder of innocent people in Afghanistan is given. The note further says that through the sending of arms and ammunition and dispatching of terrorists into Afghanistan, Pakistan intensifies war and fratricide here.

The notice asks UNGOMAP that it according to Article Seven, Document Number Four, of Geneva agreement investigate instances of these violations and inform the Afghan side and representative of the UN secretary general of the result.

The notice further adds that in Article Eight, Document Number One, of Geneva agreements it is also mentioned that the sides must refrain from training, arming, financing and employment of mercenaries, from any source it may be, inside its territory for the purposes of hostile activities against another high contracting party or sending of such mercenaries into the territory of another high contracting party as well as providing facilities (?including) provision of financial resources (?to) them.

114th Notice Submitted

LD0811073388 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0433 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov 7 BAKHTAR—114th notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on Pakistani violations from the Second Article of the First Document of the Geneva agreements was submitted today to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP), reports the Liaison Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan with UNGOMAP.

The notice gave all-sided informations about training and equipping of the extremists with deadly arms by Pakistan and sending them into Afghanistan for inhuman activities.

The notice requests from UNGOMAP to study the violations on the basis of the item No. 7 of the Document No. 4 of the Geneva accords and inform the Republic of Afghanistan and representative of the UN secretary general of the results.

Rebel Commander on Halt in Soviet Withdrawal

LD0711190288 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—Suspension of troops withdrawal from Afghanistan—after appointment of Yuliy Vorontsov as the new Soviet ambassador—proves lack of goodwill on the Russians' part, a point reportedly stressed by the mujahidin since the beginning of Geneva talks.

An Afghan operational commander, Mr. Saberi at a press conference here Monday said the mujahidin had always doubted Moscow's commitment to its undertakings.

The Afghan mujahidin commander said the halt in troops pull-out indicates that Moscow worried over the fate of the flimsy Kabul regime is trying to beef up its agents in the Muslim country.

On the joint Pakistan-Saudi proposal for holding a session in Mecca to discuss formation of a coalition government—possibly headed by ex-King Zahir Shah—the commander made it clear that Afghan mujahidin reject any type of coalition with the Marxist regime or the agents of Western and Eastern arrogance.

He reiterated Afghan mujahidin's aim to unite all Muslim and combatant groups including Shi'a and Sunni.

Rejecting the plan for a transitional government recently put forth by the Peshawar based Islamic Unity, he said "we believe that freedom of Afghanistan is only possible through solidarity among Sunni and Shi'a brethren."

Saberi concluded by saying that over 90 per cent of Afghanistan's soil has been liberated from the joint Kabul-Moscow forces.

Islamabad Details Recent Mujahidin Operations

Base Near Jalalabad Captured

BK0811033188 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Yesterday the mujahidin captured a large military base of the Kabul administration in Ghani Kheyl, 35 miles east of Jalalabad city. The fighting began when about 100 soldiers laid down their arms. [sentence as heard] The Afghan news agency says that the mujahidin have entered the cantonment and are busy collecting a large quantity of weapons, military vehicles, and other materials. The base in Ghani Kheyl is considered one of the largest military bases of the Kabul administration in east Nangarhar Province, and along with Samar Kheyl cantonment was the last line of defense of Jalalabad. With the capture of Ghani Kheyl, it will be easy to capture Samar Kheyl cantonment for the final attack on Jalalabad.

Meanwhile, fierce fighting continues in southern Qandahar Province. The mujahidin shot down a MiG-27 plane in Towr Kotal, 80 km southeast of Qandahar airport last Saturday [5 November]. MiG-27 planes have been dispatched to Afghanistan recently.

Missile Attack on Kabul

BK0611154888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the Kabul reigme has been unsuccessful in dampening the spirits of the mujahidin by using the newly-acquired missiles against them. The mujahidin are reported to have launched another missile attack on the capital, Kabul. Details of this attack are not yet known.

Earlier, the mujahidin attacked a military camp at (Kirgah), an area in Kabul city, killing or wounding many soldiers. The mujahidin carried out the attack from the Paghman side, using surface-to-surface missiles.

In yet another attack at Khak-e Jabbar in the Bagrami area near Kabul, the mujahidin destroyed a military vehicle. Reports of fierce fighting between the mujahidin and the Kabul regime troops have also been received from Balkh, Konduz, and Paktia Provinces.

Operations in Herat, Nangarhar

BK0711153388 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, mujahidin operations against Kabul troops are increasing. The reports say the mujahidin in various operations around Herat city and (Pol-e Wizara) killed at least 20 Kabul troops. During these operations six Kabul troops were captured with heavy machineguns and a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

Another report says the mujahidin carried out a successful rocket attack at a large ammunition depot near (Azim-e Qille) in Nangarhar Province killing 40 Kabul troops. The report says the mujahidin carried out successful operations in and around military posts near (Nafizewase) and (Gul Qille) in the same province.

BAKHTAR: 'Extremists' 'Crushed' in Provinces
LD0811071088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0448 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov 7 BAKHTAR—One hundred and eighteen extremist elements were crushed and sixty nine others wounded on Sunday in various parts of Qandahar Province. A large number of arms belonging to the extremists were destroyed during the operations carried out by the Armed Forces, reports our military correspondent from Qandahar.

According to another report, twenty five persons attached to the extremists were killed and eighteen others sustained injuries on Sunday as a result of the mopping up operations carried by the Armed Forces in Gardeyz city, centre of Paktia Province.

Likewise, on the same day nine extremist elements were crushed and eighteen wounded in the related areas of Zabol Province.

On the basis of another report, ten extremists were smashed and eight wounded in the surroundings of Chaghcharan city, capital of Ghowr Province on Sunday by the Armed Forces.

The extremist elements fired on Sunday surface-to-surface rockets on the residential areas of Jabal os Saraj District of Parvan Province and Khowst Grand District as a result of which five persons were injured and a girl was killed in Jabol os Saraj.

Based on another report, two children were killed and four others wounded as a result of the ground to ground rockets fired on Sunday by the extremists on residential areas of Nangarhar Province.

New Rockets Destroy 'Largest' Rebel Ammo Dump
LD0811080388 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0430 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov 7 BAKHTAR—As a result of the strikes of powerful rockets of the Armed Forces of Afghanistan the largest arms and ammunition depots of extremists located in Marolgad [placename as received], south of Nangarhar Province, were destroyed last week, an authorized military source said here.

The depots which were created by the Pakistani and U.S. military advisers several years ago were piled with arms and ammunition including ground to ground rockets.

The deafening explosions of the depots which lasted for several hours, in addition to causing demolition to the depots, have remarkably demoralised the Afghan opposition groups.

Bangladesh

Ershad Greets Gorbachev on Soviet Anniversary
BK0611163088 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] President Ershad has felicitated President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of his country. In a message he expressed his firm conviction that the existing relations of cordial friendship and cooperation between Dhaka and Moscow would be further strengthened in the future.

Daily on Benazir Bhutto, Pakistani Elections
BK0511042588 Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali
23 Oct 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Forthcoming Elections in Pakistan"]

[Text] A general election is being held in Pakistan on 16 November. Big preparations are going on in Pakistan for the holding of party-based general elections for the first time after 11 years of General Ziaul Haq's rule. The two factions of the Pakistan Muslim League [PML] have merged themselves overnight to contain the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] in the elections.

There was a split in the PML after General Zia sacked the Junejo Council of Ministers on 29 November. Junejo, who won the elections on a nonparty basis, was the leader of Zia-supported reconstituted Muslim League. When he was sacked under the pretext of not paying necessary attention to Zia's Islamization program, a faction of the Muslim League under the leadership of Fida Mohammad Khan declaring itself the follower of Zia ideology became a rival to the Junejo-led Muslim League.

When the PPP decided to take part in the elections, some smaller parties, including Junejo's Muslim League, formed a tripartite front with centralist Tehrik-i-Istiqlal Party and a religious liberal party known as Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan. The Fida group also formed a front with some other smaller parties. But on realizing that they could not contain the strong PPP in the elections, the Fida group Muslim League, which strictly adhered to Zia ideology, merged again with Junejo's Muslim League by forgetting about its loudly proclaimed principles of only a few days before.

The merger of the two factions of the Muslim League has once again proved the fact that their only objective is to capture power and their idealistic talks are only a show. But some sections fear that the merger might create dissension among the Junejo faction and the two smaller parties [of his front].

On the other side, the strength and popularity of Benazir Bhutto still remains at the top in Pakistan, and the possibility of the PPP's victory in the forthcoming election is also great. From the very beginning Benazir

Bhutto was vocal against the military rule in Pakistan, and she continued her belligerent struggle in the face of all kinds of oppression and suppression. Therefore, not only her father's image has come to her aid, but she has also built her own image in Pakistani politics. In fact, there is no popular leader or party in Pakistan today who can match her.

In her election speeches, Benazir Bhutto has softened her voice on foreign policy. She has also pledged to continue the current economic system in Pakistan. Most probably against this backdrop, American Ambassador Robert Oakley said while recently addressing a news conference in Lahore that the United States will not change its policy toward Pakistan if Benazir Bhutto comes to power.

Only the Pakistani people can decide the significance behind such a statement of the American ambassador in Pakistan. But his statement clearly manifests the deep U.S. influence in Pakistani politics and their role in controlling it.

Benazir Bhutto's People's Party pursued its struggle against the long military rule of Ziaul Haq, the attempt to crush the rights of women in the name of setting up of an Islamic society, and the revival of a Middle Age judicial system. Benazir's party under no circumstances bowed down to Zia's suppressions and oppressions.

The PPP has made a contribution in the formation of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) by uniting several parties. Although later on some of the parties left the MRD, the movement has enhanced the might of the People's Party. It is, however, useless now to guess the role of the PPP—the biggest political party in Pakistan—in the country's politics following the elections.

But it is a fact that the fear of the People's Party gaining the majority in a party-based election has reunited overnight the two factions of the Muslim League. While in power, Zia-supported Junejo used to consider himself an undisputed leader of the Muslim League. It was discovered after he was removed from power that the strength of his leadership was borrowed from a stem of [Zia's] power. Now, in the face of a general election with the greed of capturing power, the split Muslim League has emerged after somehow patching itself together.

The United States knows that without the umbrella of military might, all these parties would not be able to influence the people of the country in any way. But the popularity of the People's Party instead of decreasing has increased, even in the face of the widespread suppressive policy of the military government. This party has neither acquired strength nor organized itself by leaning on the crutches of the Army. Therefore, it will be better to hold the trump card of Benazir Bhutto.

Benazir Bhutto has assured the industrialists and businessmen that she would maintain the trend in the fields of foreign affairs and unrestrained economic policy. Thus, it is expected that the support of these people will also go for her.

So far as the consolidation of strength is concerned, the PPP and Benazir's own image still remain at the top in the forthcoming Pakistan elections. The contribution and outlook of Benazir Bhutto in the struggle for the restoration of democracy in Pakistan are basically different from the Muslim League, which was once the cringing dependent of Zia's power.

Everyone is intently watching this Pakistani election. It is not correct to say there will be wide-ranging changes in Pakistan's foreign and domestic policies if Benazir Bhutto comes to power. But there will be basic changes in the administrative system.

The holding of the reins of administration by political leaders in place of the Armed Forces will meet the first condition of the establishment of democracy. And for this everyone's attention is now fixed on Benazir Bhutto.

India

MiG-21 Fighter Plane Crashes; 6 Injured

BK0811071488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0704 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 8 (AFP)—An Indian Air Force MiG-21 fighter plane crashed here early Tuesday, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported. Six people were injured when the plane caught fire as it hit the ground, PTI said, but the pilot bailed out safely.

Officials were not immediately available to comment on the report.

2 Sikhs Barred From Entering Golden Temple

BK0811035788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] In Punjab, the former chief of the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion], Bhai Jasbir Singh Rhode, and Bhai Jaswant Singh were prevented by the police at Talwandisabo from proceeding to Amritsar yesterday evening. According to the director general of the state police, Mr K.P.S. Gill, this has been done to prevent any threat to peace in Amritsar. Bhai Jasbir Singh Rhode had some time back given a call to hold an assembly inside the Golden Temple complex tomorrow, to which the SGPC was opposed.

Mr Gill said entry of Bhai Jasbir Singh and his associates into the temple complex would have been resisted by the SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee] leading to confrontation. Mr Gill, however, denied that the two leaders have been arrested.

Four persons were shot dead by terrorists and three injured in separate incidents in the state last night. The security forces arrested five terrorists in raids in Ludhiana District yesterday and recovered some arms and ammunition from their possession.

Work To Build Indigenous AWACS System Begins
BK0811070888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Preliminary work to build an Airborne Warning and Control System, AWACS, indigenously in the country has begun. The aeronautical development establishment sources in Banglore said several schemes have been launched for the prestigious venture, called the Airborne Surveillance Warning and Control System. It will incorporate the state of the art technology and will use HS-748 aircraft fitted with advanced avionics.

Soviet Firm To Buy Alloy Steel Castings
BK0711095188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] The public sector Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited [BHEL] has bagged an export order from a Soviet firm. The order for alloy steel castings for turbines is worth 3 crore rupees. A BHEL release said in New Delhi today that the castings will be manufactured at BHEL's plant at Haridwar. The supplies are scheduled to be completed in 2 years.

Commentary Lauds Assistance to Maldives
BK0511124688 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Lalithkumar Joshi commentary: "Hourly Assistance to Maldives"]

[Text] In a swift 4-hour operation, crack Indian paratroopers flown into the Maldives on Thursday [3 November] crushed a bid to overthrow the democratically elected president of the island nation, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom. As prime minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi announced amid cheers in the Rajya Sabha, the Maldives is a peaceful country with no armed force except a small force to maintain law and order.

President Gayoom was a democratically elected and popular president of the friendly neighboring country. He appealed to India for help in desperation in its grave hour of need. After considering the appeal, India decided to respond positively and go to the aid of the country facing a threat to its sovereignty and democratic order. After ensuring the safety of the president and its government, the Indian troops, who did not suffer any casualties, even began the process of withdrawal on Friday. Further de-induction of troops, now stated to be around 1,150 in number, will be done in consultation with the Maldives Government. This is necessary as President Gayoom has sought Indian help to even mop up the mercenaries who had made the coup bid.

The Maldives consists of nearly 200 inhabited islands and the mercenaries are said to have fled to some of them. The Maldives has a very small force of its own, normally to just manage law and order. The headquarters of its national security force were attacked by the mercenaries, who had been reportedly recruited in Sri Lanka by those opposed to President Gayoom.

The gunfire managed to alert the forces of the danger to the president and they managed to whisk him away. President Gayoom managed to inform India about the coup attempt and the Indian forces were airlifted in long range aircraft. The forces landed on an island near the capital, Male, under rebel siege. They then moved into Male in boats and launched the attack on the rebels. The Indian forces captured some of the rebels who had taken over the radio and TV stations. The island's airport, built with Indian assistance, was secured by the crack troops, who also recaptured the radio and TV stations. President Gayoom then went on air assuring his countrymen about full control of the situation.

India had kept the two superpowers, U.S. and USSR, and also the neighboring countries informed about the action in the Maldives. The Indian action was appreciated by the neighbors, who condemned the bid to take over a friendly democratic country.

The Indian action by and large was commended by the media at home. THE STATESMAN in an editorial "Policing the Region" said the wisdom of rushing arms and men may be open to question since it reveals both New Delhi's commitment to a single foreign politician's career and its readiness to intervene militarily in the region's troubled spots. THE HINDUSTAN TIMES felt that by heeding the call of President Gayoom, India had reaffirmed its commitment to regional peace and stability. India had saved both the Gayoom government and warded off a regional crisis, the daily writes.

Had New Delhi dithered or acted otherwise, someone else, perhaps the U.S. or Britain or some others like Pakistan would (?doubtlessly) have stepped in. That would have opened the Pandora's box of interference in the region, which [words indistinct] the cornerstone of the Indian regional policy to prevent. The whole episode had exposed the vulnerability of the region to external inimical pressure and influence.

Thanks to the huge influx of arms into the subcontinent and around it, the political volatility that characterizes it has acquired a dangerous dimension. All the more this has shown that India has to be alert to its regional obligations, especially in emergencies like the present one. The Indian action in support of President Gayoom points to the reiteration of the doctrine which promises to come to the succor of the democratically elected governments of the region.

As Mr Gandhi declared in Parliament, the Indian decision to act on the appeal was its own. It would continue to make decisions of its own, he said reacting to reports that United States had asked New Delhi to provide President Gayoom help.

This is the third time that President Gayoom had faced a coup attempt. Earlier in 1981 and 1983 mercenaries had tried to overthrow President Gayoom unsuccessfully, but the action had been controlled by the Gayoom government itself. This time, the threat was a greater one as the raiders, said to number over 400, were more heavily armed and better prepared. They are now feared to be Tamil militants from Sri Lanka, as they were heard speaking in both Tamil and Sinhala.

Reports from Colombo says that a Maldives businessman opposed to President Gayoom was the financier of the rebels, who perhaps wanted to have a base in one of the islands of the archipelago to carry on the operations against the neighboring Sri Lanka Government.

Despite denials, the whole operation appears to be one engineered by former president Amir Ibrahim Nasir living in Singapore.

This was not the first time that India has come to the aid of a democratically elected government. New Delhi's track record right from 1950, when it helped King Tribhuvan of Nepal, to Bangladesh in 1971, and Sri Lanka in 1987.

Iran

Majlis Speaker Lauds Khomeyni on Free Expression

LD0811101788 Tehran IRNA in English 1008 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov, 8. IRNA—Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was all praise today for the imam's latest edict encouraging free expression and scholarly debates on major issues.

The speaker, addressing the open session of the Majlis said the imam's edict in reply to a letter from one of his bureau members Hoj. Mohammad 'Ali Ansari, was rightly dubbed "The Charter of Brotherhood" by the press.

Both the letter to the imam and the reply appeared in Monday's press.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the imam's reply as a fatherly and brotherly advice for those whose difference of opinion sometimes causes public concern. He termed it is a means of fostering fraternity and unity among those committed Muslims who since the victory of the 1979 revolution have been working for the revival of Islamic values in Iran.

The speaker said that Imam Khomeyni's edict provides the best guidelines for theological centers and all those who believe that these centers and 'ulema must be actively involved in the social issues of the country.

Further on 'Wise' Advice

LD0811113788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] The Majlis held an open session today. During the session Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis and acting commander-in-chief, made a speech in which he referred to Iman Khomeyni's reply to a letter from Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari. He said: We thank God that we are able to benefit from his eminence the imam's wise leadership at appropriate junctures. The unequivocal position of the imam of the ummah about the competence of those in charge and those individuals who are working in the interest of success for Islam and the Muslims is a soothing gift to the people. The imam's message, which the press has rightly described as a charter of fraternity, is wise and fatherly advise to those whose difference of views occasionally cause anxiety among the people who expected unity from Islam.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued: The imam of the ummah's message will be conducive to the unity and friendship of those Muslim people who aim for Islam's success and greatness in order to resolve differences of views in accordance with the Koran and to reach agreement with one another. The Majlis speaker also said: We, the Majlis deputies, are the main addressees of his eminence the imam's strict instructions. We hope to be able to demonstrate our qualification in terms of responding to advice and our obedience to the rule of the jurisconsult.

The views of the imam, as a great personality in jurisprudence, regarding theological scholars and scholarship and on the country's social and political affairs, are a good guide for the seminaries and for those who expect the country's social problems to be considered by the seminaries and jurisprudents. The imam has determined the way to achieve effective and legitimate unity in administering the country's affairs.

Continuing his remarks, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The charter of fraternity, the charter of the revolution, and the imam's message regarding the country's reconstruction form a compendium which can, at this juncture, strengthen the spirit of fraternity and be effective for our needs. The work of the Majlis and the action of the deputies should reflect his eminence the imam's wishes in terms of good administration of the country.

Musavi Says Progress Depends on National Unity

LD0811091588 Tehran IRNA in English 0804 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Nov. 8, IRNA—The prime minister stressing unity of all classes of society, said the Islamic revolution's progress both at home and abroad during the past decade is due to the nation's unity.

Hoseyn Musavi arrived here last night on a pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) [God's peace be upon him]—8th imam of prophet Mohammad's (SAW) [God's peace be upon him and his heirs] infallible household—and was welcomed at the airport by imam's representative and superintendent of the holy shrine Hojjat ol-Eslam Va'ez-Tabasi, Mashhad Friday prayer leader Ayatollah Shirazi and Governor General Hasan Abedini.

The prime minister is accompanied by Ministers of Mines and Metals Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi, and Construction Jihad Gholamreza Foruzesh and his cultural deputy Javad Eje'i on his Khorasan trip.

In an interview at the airport, Musavi reminded the government will do its best on reconstruction and future planning of the country.

Later in the night, members of the scientific board of Mashhad University met with the prime minister and informed him of the progress achieved in science. They also declared readiness to carry out research projects in pharmaceutical and medical fields.

The prime minister and his entourage are to visit several towns and cities in this northeastern province.

Hints Administrative 'Changes'

LD0811112188 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Nov. 8, IRNA—The prime minister Tuesday called on all executive officials to be prepared for progress, a better future and a powerful post-war Iran.

Hoseyn Musavi currently on a pilgrimage to this holy city hinted fundamental changes in the administrative system to ensure progress in industries, science, technology and management.

Addressing the provincial administrative council, the premier stressed for efforts towards a healthy atmosphere in government organs and said it was the responsibility of officials to stand against the slightest corruption and embezzlement.

To check such deviations the special state panel which decides interests of the Islamic system, has approved of a campaign against corruption and embezzlement, which he said is ready for execution. Those involved in nefarious activities will receive due punishment, he made it clear.

Musavi called on administrative workers to help preserve Islamic values and those of the Islamic revolution by serving the people, the oppressed in particular.

After the session the premier left for Birjand south of Mashhad where he visited the city's cemetery and paid tributes to the martyrs of the Iraqi-imposed war.

Iraq 'Apparently' Agrees to POW Exchange

LD0811120188 Tehran IRNA in English 1156 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 8, IRNA—Iran and Iraq have apparently agreed to release a limited number of war prisoners in the first sign of progress in their deadlocked peace talks.

Responding to an earlier offer by Iran, Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz Tuesday announced his country's preparations to release and repatriate all sick and wounded POWS.

"(Iraq) is ready to commence immediately the repatriation of all sick and wounded POWS... in case the Iranian Government agrees to do so," he said after meeting the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Cornelio Sommaruga.

"We have no problem on the exchange of the ill and injured POWS," Ayatollah Mohajerani, head of the Iranian POW committee told IRNA Tuesday.

He said Iraq had insisted on the repatriation of all the war prisoners but Iran had proposed to release the sick and wounded first.

"It now depends on the Red Cross to arrange the timing" for the exchange, he added.

Iran's Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati had announced readiness to release sick and wounded POWS last week. He repeated the offer last night.

So far the ICRC has registered 411 Iranian and 1,115 Iraqi prisoners of war classified as sick and wounded.

Velayati after the longest face-to-face talks with the Iraqi side under U.N. chairmanship said Iran was ready to go ahead with the prisoner exchange but that priority should be given to the ill and injured.

"We do hope that we could reach to some positive points," said Velayati who added that Iranian officials were having regular meeting with the ICRC officials here.

Iran has linked the full exchange of POWS to the withdrawal of Iraqi troops to the international border. But Iraq Tuesday reiterated that the POWS should be released and returned home immediately.

After meeting ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga Tuesday, 'Aziz said the limited exchange of POWS "must not be taken by the Iranian side as a pretext to block the comprehensive exchange operation."

There are 19,284 Iranian and 50,182 Iraqi war prisoners registered by the Red Cross which estimates the actual number in both countries at over 100,000.

Asked whether agreement on the exchange of sick and wounded POWS had been finalized, the Iraqi foreign minister said it was now up to the ICRC to follow the matter. "The (ICRC) president told me he would do his best so that this operation will take place as soon as possible," he said.

The near completion of an agreement on the POWS comes after some of the most negative comments in the latest round of peace negotiations.

U.N. special representative Jan Eliasson said after Monday night's five-hour long plenary session that he could not report any progress on "matters of substance." He also called on Iran and Iraq to show restraint after Iraqi accusations that Iran was planning to fortify its frontlines.

Iranian and Iraqi delegations arrived here on October 31 for their third round of talks to settle their eight years of war.

Velayati on Need for New Plan

LD0711182688 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 7, IRNA—The United Nations must come up with new ideas to break the stalemate at the 11-week old peace negotiations between Iran and Iraq, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said.

"If they (U.N. Security Council and the secretary general) want the talks to move ahead and out of the current relative deadlock then it (new initiative) is necessary," he said.

He said Iran was not holding any Iraqi territory but more than 1,000 sq kms of Iranian territory was under Iraqi occupation, including two towns.

In an interview with IRNA here Monday, Velayati also revealed that the U.N. had confirmed the validity of the 1975 peace treaty between Iran and Iraq. Iraq tore up the treaty before invading Iran in September 1980.

"As far as the Iraqis are concerned, they must show in practice that they are the peace-seekers they have been presenting themselves during these years."

Excerpts:

—On the latest round of talks

"There has not been any change in the Iraqi position. What we are seeing is in fact a change of tactic by the Iraqis. They seem to have softened their line but in fact their position has not changed.

"The Iraqis are stressing that clearing the Arvand River and freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, without Iran's right to search Iraqi ships, are part of the ceasefire.

"Iraq's main purpose is to solve its own internal problems and in fact they have shown that Resolution 598 is unacceptable to them, even though they officially accepted it more than a year ago. It is the same with the secretary general's four-point plan to implement the resolution. Iraq is against it."

—On a new U.N. initiative

"I don't know whether they (the Security Council and the secretary general) are thinking of new initiatives but if they want the talks to move on and out of the current relative deadlock then it is necessary that they must do so.

"It appears that the Security Council and the secretary general (Javier Perez de Cuellar) have become more convinced about the need to withdraw troops to internationally recognized borders. They agree it is an urgent matter to strengthen the ceasefire."

—On Iraq's position on the 1975 treaty

"In the negotiations the Iraqis have said indirectly that they do not recognize the treaty. Other Iraqi officials outside the talks have publicly said that the treaty is no longer valid. They said it just before they started the war.

"The validity of the 1975 treaty in not negotiable. We will not allow it to be weakened. As far as international law is concerned the treaty is alive and well. We have officially asked the United Nations to clarify its position on it and they have confirmed that they accept its validity as an inter-national document."

—On current situation of Iranian and Iraqi forces

"Our forces are not in any part of Iraqi territory. As soon as we accepted Resolution 598 our forces withdrew from Iraq.

"The Iraqis, on the other hand, after we accepted the resolution, came and occupied a number of areas in Iran. They now occupy more than 1,000 sq. kms of our territory, including the two towns of Khosravi and Naft-e Shahr (in the central border area).

—On reaffirmation of commitment to ceasefire

"As far as Iran is concerned, the acceptance of Resolution 598 is not a tactic. This has been reaffirmed by Imam Khomeyni. But as far as Iraq is concerned, they must show in practice that they are the peace-seekers they have been presenting themselves during these years.

"What we are trying to achieve is an honorable and just peace. But we are prepared to defend our revolution, our land, our people just as we have done so in the last eight years."

UN Mediator Eliasson Cited

LD0711232688 Tehran IRNA in English 2306 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 7, IRNA—Iraq Monday accused Iran of calling for troop reinforcements while Iran complained about Iraq's refusal to accept the withdrawal of troops as the next step in settling their conflict.

The foreign ministers were commenting after one of their longest face-to-face talks under U.N. mediation.

There have been "long talks with no progress," said Iran's foreign minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Earlier his Iraqi counterpart Tariq 'Aziz accused the Islamic Republic of calling more troops to be sent to the border with Iraq. "I am sending a letter this evening to the secretary general of the U.N. concerning the late statement by the commander of the Iranian Guards," he said.

The Iranian military official, according to 'Aziz who did not name him, had said that "the government must send more and more fortifications to the frontlines." Iraq considered the statement to be a "grave" matter while both sides were talking peace, he said.

But U.N. Special Representative Jan Eliasson who chaired the five-hour meeting said he had neither heard such a statement from Iran nor any report from the U.N. peace keeping force commander in the area.

"We have not received any report from (the U.N. force commander) in the direction that would suggest that the ceasefire is not holding. We would hope that both sides would exercise restraint in all respects."

He said the talks Monday were "very intensive" and "business-like" but "I cannot report any progress." Eliasson will report to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on November 16.

The Geneva talks, the third since August 25, have failed to bring the two sides close to any agreement. There will be another plenary meeting Tuesday afternoon.

Asked to comment on Dr Velayati's call for a new initiative by the U.N. to break the deadlock, Eliasson said his team of mediators had presented "certain ideas" in the new round of negotiations.

"We will be as helpful as possible from our side but it also requires positive attitude, cooperation from the parties."

In an interview with IRNA, the Iranian foreign minister said new ideas from the Security Council and the secretary general were necessary to unblock the talks. "The main problem is the question of withdrawal," Velayati reiterated after Monday's long session. "This issue is the key issue for other provisions of the resolution."

The Iraqi foreign minister said he will meet again with officials from the International Committee of the Red Cross Tuesday to discuss the release of war prisoners as soon as possible.

Iraq has raised the POW issue and the clearing of the Arvand River separate from the U.N. Resolution 598 and a four-point implementation plan which gives priority to the pull back of forces.

Correspondent Views Talks

LD0711183188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Interview with unidentified correspondent in Geneva by second unidentified correspondent in the studio, on the Geneva peace talks; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Question] Following UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's return to New York, the fourth round of the Iran-Iraq peace talks was due to take place in Geneva at 1830 this evening. Have these talks taken place and have you any information for our dear listeners?

[Answer] In the name of God, and with greetings to the dear compatriots. As you mentioned, the continuation of the Iran-Iraq talks under UN auspices began a few minutes ago in Geneva and the two countries' foreign ministers met in the presence of Jan Eliasson, the secretary general's personal representative. The new round of these talks began last Monday in the presence of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

This evening's meeting between the two countries' foreign ministers is the first since the secretary general's departure for New York. Before returning to New York after the third joint session of the two countries' foreign ministers, Mr Perez de Cuellar expressed the hope that this week's talks will show considerable progress. Of course, I must add that although no particular statement is being released on the agenda of the meetings, it is nevertheless expected that the talks will focus on the secretary general's four-point plan and the need for the withdrawal of forces to internationally recognized borders—which is particularly important.

[Question] Has Iraq taken a new position in view of the secretary general's four-point plan or not?

[Answer] I must say that there has not been anything new as yet, except the remarks of the Iraqi foreign minister at the conclusion of their third joint session, when he said that the talks have been useful so far.

Of course, another piece of news is that today Mr Jan Eliasson, the UN secretary general's personal representative at the Geneva talks, met and conferred with Mr Naseri, our country's permanent envoy to the UN European Headquarters.

[Question] Thank you and I wish you success.

[Answer] Thank you.

Appeal to Perez de Cuellar

PM0811101388 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 27 Oct 88 p 20

[Editorial by Khosrow Farid: "Renewed Negotiations Between Iran and Iraq and Responsibilities of the Secretary General"]

[Text] The negotiations between Iran and Iraq are due to start next Monday under the supervision of the secretary general at the UN European Headquarters in Geneva. There so far have been several rounds of talks, both in Geneva and New York, but they have not settled on a way to implement the details of UN Security Council Resolution No 598. The reason for this lack of success is—it is fair and unbiased to say—the Iraq's unwillingness to heed the resolution.

The end result of Iraq's policy, which so far has expressed itself in terms of obstructionism and creating preconditions, is aimed at preventing progress in the talks, removal or at least lessening the role of the secretary general in the talks, and in real terms weakening the resolution itself.

Issues such as direct talks, freedom of shipping, and dredging of the Arvand River all hinted at the same thing and the Iraqi regime's latest action suggesting the release of all POW's outside the framework of the resolution and proposing this to the Red Cross instead of the secretary general makes these intentions quite clear. In reality, the regime in Iraq so far has put forward alternative proposals for half of the clauses in Resolution No 598.

Suspicious movements of the Iraqis on the border also make this point. Quite seriously and without meaning to voice slogans, one can say that the Iraqi Government not only has no intention of carrying out Resolution No 598, but it has established policies to obstruct the resolution. It did this while for 1 year it stressed the necessity of the resolution and while it asked the whole world to put pressure on and impose sanctions against Iran for not accepting the UN proposals.

This so far is the situation regarding Iraq. Our concern in mentioning these issues is not to confront Iraq and its policies. We are really addressing the UN secretary general and his colleagues who are the mediators between Iran and Iraq.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, following the acceptance of Resolution No 598, has fulfilled its promises with regard to the resolution and also the agreements reached with the secretary general. It also has shown a great deal of patience. However, in the past few weeks we have seen no serious or decisive action from the secretary general—particularly keeping in mind his support from the Security Council—to force Iraq to cooperate so that the talks can progress and the resolution be implemented.

Contrary to the first plans and agreements, today, 2 months after the start of formal negotiations, there has not even been agreement on implementing the first clause of the resolution. From a realistic point of this view, this indicates a "failure" for the secretary general. The reason for this is not the difficulty of the job at hand, but the lack of willingness on the part of Iraq to even complete the Clause 1 of Resolution No 598.

One must admit frankly that if the secretary general is not able at this stage of the negotiations to overcome the obstacles and to lead the talks toward progress, we will enter a futile period. The secretary general has passed the "unsuccessful" period and now is facing a complete deadlock in his efforts to implement the resolution. Under these circumstances, it is quite obvious that despite support from the Security Council and despite Iran's readiness to see the talks progress, the secretary general has succumbed to Iraq's obstructionism.

He must no longer remain indifferent to Iraq's wayward attitudes toward previous agreements, and more important than that, Resolution No 598 itself. He must not think of Iraq's obstructionisms as "normal difficulties" and must not use "the necessity to remain neutral" as an excuse for not showing enough strength.

Recent remarks by the secretary general and the president of the Security Council show that both believe that despite Iraqi claims, enforcing the cease-fire depends solely on the withdrawal of troops and not on the dredging of the Arvand River, or on shipping in the Persian Gulf. It could be said that these remarks are encouraging. However, encouraging comments alone are not enough to solve a problem as big as the Iraq-Iran dispute. Now is the time for the mediators sternly to set forth to implement the details of Resolution No 598.

As a sign of his dedication to his resolution and to his own proposals, the time has come for the secretary general to announce the formation of a commission to look into who started the war. According to the secretary general's plan and in his efforts to gain Iran's acceptance of a cease-fire, this commission was supposed to have been formed at the same time as the implementation of a cease-fire.

The question remains: Why does Iran always have to respect agreements and not the other side? The secretary general can prove he is faithful to his principles by announcing the formation of the commission to look

into who started the war. This way he can show that the Geneva talks are not futile and that his actions to implement his goals have not reached a stalemate.

Commentary on 'Fragile' Cease-Fire

NC0811113888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Unattributed commentary from the "Holy Defense" feature]

[Text] The fourth round of political talks between Iran and Iraq is currently taking place in Geneva. It appears that this round is moving ahead in a positive way as Iraq is displaying a more understanding attitude. Despite this, it is too early to view Baghdad's objectives and the outcome and trend of the talks with complete optimism. Besides, this development should definitely be accompanied by practical and principled measures in order to attain results. However, even this relative stimulation affirms the fact that international public opinion today is aware of the need for an accelerated pace in the peace talks.

The provocative developments and incidents that sporadically take place in the region, for example, the wounding of one of the Iranian forces by the Iraqi forces last week which was confirmed by the UN observers, the hostile forces moving closer to the contact zone which at some points is only a few meters away, and similar incidents, confirm how very fragile the present cease-fire is on the fronts. There is no doubt that, in the event of any lack of restraint by Iraq, each one of these actions could prove to be the spark that will ignite a powder keg.

Marrack Goulding, the UN under secretary general for special political affairs, presented his latest report to the UN secretary general after a visit to the Iran-Iraq war zone. In it he clearly stressed this tension and the tangible danger of a renewed conflict. In this report, which was also presented to the UN Security Council, he termed the situation on the two fronts as extremely dangerous. He warned that if the withdrawal of the forces is not begun quickly, there is a clear danger of an outbreak of hostilities between the two countries.

It is on the basis of these facts that international public opinion does not consider as justified any further hesitation, procrastination, and of course pretexts or obstructionism in the talks, and has therefore exerted pressure on the Iraqi regime and forced it to relinquish its policy of wasting time. In any case, as regards the Geneva talks it may be said that it is now time for a joint effort to speed up the implementation of Resolution No 598. All factors which impede this course will be subjected to criticism and the pressure of public opinion.

This is a matter to which all in general and the Baghdad authorities in particular should pay attention!

Commentary Examines U.S. Presidential Election

NC0811111388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Central News Unit research group commentary: "The Presidential Elections in the United States"]

[Excerpts] The U.S. presidential election will be held today. The election to the highest executive authority, as well as the selection of members to the two houses of the U.S. legislature, is considered the most important political event in that country. This importance stems from the particular nature of the domestic U.S. social and political system, which has revealed its complexity, particularly during the presidential campaign, on the federal and state levels. The election also reflects the role and performance of the United States in the international arena.

This complexity arises from the presence of numerous heterogeneous groups and elements in U.S. society such as racial and religious minorities, middle and workers classes, and men and women. The candidates attempt to attract these voters by announcing programs that have an impact on issues of interest to these groups. Along with these heterogeneous elements, which comprise a large part of the U.S. population, we should mention the effective role played by the influential political and rich groups, who strive to consolidate their interests by attaining political power. These groups also elicit immense attention. [passage omitted]

Since the Bush and Dukakis presidential campaigns commenced, efforts have been exerted to influence public opinion. These efforts are carried out by propaganda means. Meanwhile, news agencies and mass media within the United States and abroad continue to disseminate polls to gauge the standing of the leading candidates. These polls, in themselves, can be considered a part of the publicity campaign in view of their objectives. However, they do not have any value with regard to the prospects of victory for one or the other candidate.

What is certain, in addition to the issue of propaganda, is that a large number of researchers—who have been investigating the developments and social factors in the United States, the changes at the international level with regard to the U.S. role, and the reasons for Reagan's victory in 1980 and his continuance in power for 8 years—will, after the election results are announced, be able to analyze more intensively the role played by social changes within the United States as well as at the interantional level, so that a clearer picture can be obtained to explain the reasons for the victory of either one of these candidates.

Spokesman on Soviet Withdrawal From Afghanistan

LD0811051588 Tehran IRNA in English 0510 GMT 8 Nov 88

["Iran Calls for 'Immediate' Soviet Withdrawal From Afghanistan"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—Iran Monday said a Soviet decision to suspend its troop pull-back from

Afghanistan would only "further complicate the situation" and (?hinder) efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the issue.

"The Soviet Union should withdraw all its troops from the Islamic neighboring Afghanistan immediately," a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry told IRNA Monday night.

The spokesman said a full withdrawal of troops by the Soviet Union would enable the people of Afghanistan to decide their own fate and bring to power a popular government.

Iran welcomed Moscow's partial troop pull-out from Afghanistan and was hopeful this would continue until the issue of Afghanistan is fully resolved, he said.

Gas Pipeline Project With USSR To Resume

LD0711195888 Tehran IRNA in English 1822 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA- Construction will resume on the IGAT-2 pipeline designed to carry Iranian natural gas to Europe via the Soviet Union.

Work on the project completed by 80 percent before its suspension in 1985, will start according to an agreement between the National Iranian Oil Company (NOIC) and the Italian firm SAIPEM, disclosed the Persian daily KEYHAN today.

Reports also indicate Iran will hold talks with the Soviet Union to study resumption of gas exports to that country, it added.

Part of the pipeline passing through Esfahan suffers from corrosion, and its renovation coupled with the completion of the remaining 20 percent right up to the Soviet borders would take almost a year's time, the report said.

The existing supply is not enough for securing the demands of new markets, but with the Kangan-Nar gas complex (Bushehr Prov.) due for completion next year, it is expected gas supply will be sufficient for putting IGAT-2 into operation.

The pipeline once completed is capable of meeting domestic needs of the northern parts of the country in addition to exports.

The pipeline was designed to carry 27 billion cubic meters of gas annually, 17 billion cubic meters of which was meant as exports to the Soviet Union and Europe.

PRC Deputy Minister Continues Tehran Meetings

Industrial Cooperation Planned

LD0611193388 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Arak, Central Prov., Nov. 6, (IRNA)—Iran and China are all set for massive industrial-technical cooperation and are to ink a letter of understanding over the next few days, said an informed source at the Heavy Industries Ministry today.

The Iranian official who accompanies Chinese Deputy Minister of Machine Building, Electronics and Industries, Zhao Mingshen on his visit to the industrial city of Arak, said the two countries will cooperate in designing and building refineries, power stations, ports and jetties. On talks between Chinese and Iranian officials, he said there are ample ways of cooperation and grounds were paved for manufacturing of sugar and paper related machinery.

Tehran and Beijing have common viewpoints and the Heavy Industries Ministry will step up cooperation with China's Ministry of Machine Building, Electronics and Industries, he added.

Zhao Mingsheng interviewed by IRNA SEemed to confirm the Iranian official's view. He said his country is keen on expanding ties with Iran in various fields and called for further meetings between the two countries' expert delegations to "boost bilateral cooperation."

Full implementation of the letter of understanding signed last September is among topics of discussion, added the Chinese minister.

Zhao heading a delegation arrived here Oct. 30 and to date has visited several industrial and production units in Tabriz, Isfahan and Arak.

Holds Talks With Mirzadeh

LD0711175888 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—After eight days in Iran and visiting 18 factories in three Iranian cities, Zhao Mingsheng has become familiar "with a part of Iran's industrial output and technology."

The Chinese deputy machinery BUilding, electronics and industries minister held talks with Executive Deputy Premier Hamid Mirzadeh Monday and reaffirmed Beijing's keenness for further cooperation with Iran.

The two countries can sign a letter of understanding for industrial, scientific, and technological collaboration, he added.

Mirzadeh welcoming expansion of mutual economic ties, noted that Iran and China could collaborate in building power stations, oil refineries, sea ports and the railroad network. He also foresaw expansion of ties in the transport and telecommunications fields. Zhao Mingsheng arrived in Tehran On October 30.

Further on Resumption of Talks With Britain
LD0711140288 Tehran IRNA in English 1246 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 6, IRNA—A third round of Iran-Britain negotiations are to start in Vienna on Tuesday, said Foreign Ministry Director General for European Affairs and Chief Iranian negotiator Mahmud Va'ezi here Monday before leaving for Vienna.

According to Va'ezi London has long since expressed interest in normalization of relations with Iran. However, he added, the talks started when there were signs that Britain had improved its stance towards the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added that London had expressed its interest in normalization of relations before Iran accepted the U.N. Resolution 598 last July.

Va'ezi added that after the return to Tehran of the Iranian delegation Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati received a message from British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Geoffrey Howe in which he had expressed interest in re-establishment of relations and speeding up of talks.

After the first round of talks between Iranian and British officials in Geneva on August 25, the two countries' foreign ministers met at the U.N. Headquarters in New York early in October both sides agreeing to continue talks until re-establishment of relations.

After the first round of talks in Geneva the British delegation returned to London for consultation with his government. Recently talks have been held between the British Foreign Office and Iranian charge d'affairs in London.

Envoy to France on Strengthening Ties
LD0511110388 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Paris, Nov. 5, IRNA—Iran's ambassador here, 'Ali Ahani stressed necessity of reciprocal efforts to strengthen Tehran-Paris ties in a meeting with Secretary General of French Foreign Ministry Scheer Thursday night.

On the Geneva peace talks, Ahani declared Iran's support for the Resolution 598 and the 4-point proposal of the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. He said Iran would not give up its rights on its territorial integrity and border lines with Iraq which have been clarified in the 1975 accord.

The French official mentioned the long time Iran-France ties and said there were ample grounds to be utilised for the expansion and betterment of mutual ties.

Scheer reiterated French Government's condemnation of deployment of chemical weapons and expressed hope Iran would participate in the international conference on chemical weapons to be held here on January 7-11, 1989.

Larijani, French Envoy on Toxic Gas Conference
LD0611171188 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 6, IRNA—Holding any conference on banning of chemical weapons would be meaningless without the presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said the French ambassador today.

Iran's presence at the conference is "important", Christian Graeff told deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani. The two also discussed issues relevant to the said conference to be held in Paris as well as trend of mutual relations.

Larijani replied that Iran is a victim of chemical weapons, and "therefore, we are sensitive to the forthcoming conference and its outcome since we have made great efforts to reflect to the world the horrors of these lethal weapons."

The conference can be effective in speeding up disarmament, and in triggering world concern towards the issue, he added.

On bilateral relations Larijani said Tehran-Paris are proceeding on "a reasonable path", and that many fields exist for mutual cooperation. A good political understanding dominates bilateral ties, he noted.

Iraq Faces 'Dilemma'
LD0711230188 Tehran IRNA in English 1814 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] London, Nov. 7, IRNA—The U.N. General Assembly committee is set to vote later this month on draft chemical weapons resolutions aimed at the forthcoming Paris conference that presents Iraq with a dilemma over its attendance.

France, as the depository of the 1925 Geneva protocol outlawing the use of chemical warfare, has already invited all signatories to the conference starting on January 7 to reiterate their commitment to the convention.

As the main violator of the protocol in its 63-year history, any undertaking by the Baghdad regime, would be seen as pure hypocrisy whereas dissenting or staying away from Paris would be further recognition of its guilt.

French President Francois Mitterrand has already said that Iraq as a proclaimed party to the 1925 convention would be invited to the conference and speaking at a press conference in Washington in September, he stated that Baghdad's attendance would be "very useful."

The U.N. General Assembly is expected to give its full support to France, which is also proposing with co-authors of the general resolution on chemical weapons, Canada and Poland, appropriate provisions.

French Ambassador to the U.N. disarmament talks, Pierre Morel has confirmed that the first aim of the conference will be a "solemn confirmation by all parties of their full adherence to the Geneva protocol."

Addressing the First Committee of the General Assembly in New York last month, he said that the undertaking would be a "political act" that should reject firmly all that could be deterimental to the authority of the Geneva prohibition.

To prevent the conference being bogged down in technicalities, he spelt out that the international meeting would be high-level, brief but ending with a "substantial document."

Khamene'i Sends Messages to Oman, UAE Leaders
LD0711162088 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i's message was presented to Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman by Iran's first deputy foreign minister, in Muscat Sunday.

The Central News Bureau (CNB) said here today that the message deals with the current issues of the region, and Tehran-Muscat ties.

'Ali Mohammad Besharati arrived in Abu Dhabi from Muscat Sunday carrying Khamene'i's message for his UAE counterpart Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the CNB report said.

Khamene'i Inaugurates Aeronautics University
LD0611124388 Tehran IRNA in English 1106 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 6, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i today foresaw good future for the Geneva peace talks "in case the two sides show sufficient good will." The president made the remark after visiting the first aeronautics university inaugurated here today in his presence.

In his inaugural speech, the president who is also head of the Supreme Defense Council praised the efforts taken towards self-sufficiency of the Armed Forces. Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i said arrogance always tried to infiltrate the Armed Forces under various cultural guises. He reminded that the cultural inroads of enemy powers can be more destructive than their other mischiefs.

He stressed the Armed Forces should keep up their efficiency or else they will fail their duties.

"We proved to the world," said Khamene'i, "we can remain proud and the Armed Forces should preserve this feeling". The president also called for establishment of similar centers for other branches of the Armed Forces.

The Air Force university has air frame, electronic, flight engineering and a school of aeronautics the latter supplementing the curriculum of the piloting college. Beside training pilots for the country it also admits aviation students from Muslim and friendly countries. The university admitted 76 students for the first course and 200 others for the second course.

Meanwhile, the president handed over prizes and certificates to the graudates of the third course of the command and staff as well as piloting colleges here today.

Present in the ceremony were commanders of the Armed Forces, a military adviser to the president, commander of Gendarmerie, civilian and military officials of the country and several military attaches of foreign embassies in Tehran.

President Praises Peoples' Role in Defense
LD0811113888 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—The president today referred to public donations to the war fronts and said although the war has apparently ended, people feel the necessity of preserving readiness at the battle fronts.

Hoj. 'Ali Khamene'i speaking to a group of people who donated gold, jewellery and other precious items including a priceless hand-woven carpet, as well as cash towards the sacred defence, said high public morale during the eight-year war frustrated Iran's enemies.

Both East and West have admitted the reality of the Islamic Republic as a strong and powerful country, he said thanks to the selfless efforts of Iranian Muslims.

The president who also heads the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) stressed that people should maintain this feeling during the reconstruction era, and termed the nation's faith as the key for all victories.

Arms, Spare Parts From DPRK, 'Western Country'
JN0711175588 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 6 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Iran has recently received from a Western country spare parts for some 150 fighter planes, which were out of order and incapable of flying last year. These planes will be operational within 1 to 2 months.

Western military sources in London revealed to AL-ITTIHAD that Iran, as part of its plans to rebuild its Armed Forces, has also obtained a large quantity of arms from the DPRK, including tanks, cannons, and other military equipment. The Iranian Air Force has for some time been setting up radar sites at the Strait of Hormuz in preparation for installing Silkworm missiles. Radar has actually been installed, but the new missiles have not.

The same sources added that Khark Island, now repaired, is functioning at its maximum capacity for exporting Iranian oil.

Kurds Capture Iraqi Battalion Headquarters
LD0511212888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] According to an IRNA report, the Iraqi Kurdish Hezbollah has issued the following statement:

The Hezbollah fighters, in the course of a guerrilla operation, surrounded a battalion headquarters of the Ba'th army in the (Lulan) Region of (Sidakan) and inflicted heavy losses and casualties.

This statement says that during this operation—which was launched on 29 October in retaliation for the Iraqi chemical bombing attacks against the Muslim people of the northern regions of Iraq—a large number of the Ba'thist troops were either killed or wounded and the Kurdish Muslim mujahidin captured some equipment, including a bulldozer and a loader.

More Outposts Inaugurated on Turkish Border
LD0711174488 Tehran IRNA in English 1427 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., Nov. 7, IRNA—Five new outposts were inaugurated in Maku and Siyah-Cheshmeh regions on the Iran-Turkey border Sunday afternoon, bringing to 20 the number of such outposts on the northwestern borders with Turkey.

Three of the outposts named Mileh-161, Mileh-190 and Mileh-193 were erected by local engineering units of the Gendarmerie over the snow-capped heights of Siyah Cheshmeh. The other two called Mileh-78 and Mileh-104 were built in the Maku border area.

Economic Council Approves Details of 5-Year Plan
LD0711201988 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] During today's session the Economic Council, after reviewing the program of the country's first 5-year cultural, economic, and social plan, approved the timetable, the regulations, and details on the duties of the specialist councils and committees. Also during this session, the methods of participation of various ministries and organs and also the participation of various provinces in preparing their regions were reviewed and approved.

On the basis of the decisions taken during this session, the program of the first 5-year plan will be compiled and submitted by 20 March 1989 with the coordination of the Planning and Budget Commission of the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

RESALAT Considers Reconstruction Plans
NC0511164088 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 27 Oct 88 pp 1, 12

[Second part of editorial by RESALAT political department: "Who Is Responsible for Implementing the Policies of the Supreme Council for Reconstruction?"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] If we wish to detail the subject of the absence of a commerce minister and its effects on implementing or holding in abeyance decisions of the Supreme Council for Reconstruction, we should say that prior to ratifying any decisions and "announcing them to the executive machinery and the people," it is vital and important that we "should provide multifaceted legal possibiiities" and "adjust the executive structure of the country" accordingly, to correctly and intensively implement the decisions.

For example, regarding the council's initial decisions on "declaring the free import of certain important commodities," we should question whether—as no one seems to be directly responsible for this—the conditions in the Customs have been checked. Has anyone considered the capacity and scale of the country's transportation system? Have the "wishes and inclinations of the Commerce Ministry officials for this task" been taken into account? How has their cooperation been assessed? Have the "regulations and channels for their implementation" been clarified? Finally, has the major question been answered about "who is responsible for implementing and following up on these policies?"

If the responsibility falls to the government, is it basically able to handle this task? If the "ability and competence of the executive machinery" is established, is it not possible that due to the lack of inclination on the part of some officials, this policy may be doomed to failure?

The fact is that the two factors of "speed in making decisions and announcing them" and the nature of the present executive machinery of the country, which has previously shown that it does not favor implementing new policies, may become instrumental in increasing the country's economic difficulties. This very speed in making decisions introduces a new element in management and forces those officials who have lost their peace of mind because of finding themselves in undesired positions to discard their inertia. Otherwise, this will sooner or later result in failure!

The only answer to the question of whose responsibility it is to implement this new policy is that it is he who does not have the all-round executive facilities nor faith in the implementation of such policies! As a result, if these policies were to be unsuccessful, God forbid, then it is the outlook of the leadership concerning trade as well as the policy of the Supreme Council for Reconstruction that will have failed. It is not the government's executive machinery that will have suffered the defeat but the people who are being ground in the grindstones of the country's economy!

The result of this situation is an economic atmosphere replete with hazards and in a state of turmoil in which one can fully comprehend that all, from the common man on the street to commercial magnates—and also government banks—encounter an economy which is suffering the effects of the hasty changes announced by the Council for Reconstruction. The policies are thwarted by the absence of the simultaneous cooperation of the country's administrative machinery. These administrators do not seem to have the slightest belief in these policies. Therefore, the general economy will become more shattered and mutilated than it already is.

The fact is that the Supreme Council for Reconstruction is faced with a new and dangerous reality. Even if it is itself strong, it is forced to work with unsuitable, tottering, and decrepit organizations which will never be able to eliminate the economic crises and turmoil presently confronting society. This council should not merely content itself with making decisions; it should endeavor to match the extensive actions envisaged with the abilities of instruments to implement them. It should be able to coordinate all heterogeneous policies, make snap decisions, and should instill a unity and dynamism of opinion in the country's administrative machinery.

If we wish to have a precise image of the initial stages of development in this regard, it should reflect both "adopting decisions" and "implementing decisions." [passage omitted]

The most fundamental principle of our policy today should be eliminating the morass of decisionmaking bodies and delegating all jurisdiction to one focal authority. This would not only be a step toward reconstructing the first group of official cadres but would also prove to be a panacea for the economy's paralysis, which has now afflicted our society. It may be kept in mind however, that centralizing decisions does not mean restricting all responsibility to a few individuals. We should specify who is responsible for the decisions, and we should eliminate the duplication by and interference of numerous centers for one specific purpose.

We can simultaneously enable more groups to participate in making decisions. As a matter of fact, decisions should be made whenever the problems so dictate, but the executive machinery should know who has the last word.

The issue is not whether we should select one approach or another. At this point centralization is not poised against the policy of decentralization. Our discussion is on specifying a logical venue for making decisions in the administration. Now the administration is confronted by such a medley of decisionmaking bodies that it is being stifled by the plethora of data.

Despite these discrepancies, until a considerable part of the powers which the government had assumed in the course of the war are again delegated to all the responsible departments, and until the channels for implementing policies are delineated completely and assurances made that the apex of the present executive machinery of the country will be moving in tandem with the new policies and fully intending to follow them up positively, there is no possibility of bringing back the spirit of active participation of the people and the system and the concomitant efficiency of the government's management. [passage omitted]

This brotherly discourse of mine is addressed to the high-level authorities of the Council for Discerning the Best Interests and the Supreme Council for Reconstruction and stresses the need for protecting the base and power of these new organizations which can prove to be the windows of hope for the people and for the amelioration of the general situation.

Maldives

Further on Coup Attempt Against President

Mercenaries Being Interrogated

BK0711155788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Mercenaries involved in last week's coup attempt in Maldives are being interrogated on board the two Indian naval ships. The National Security Service [NSS] [of Maldives] is carrying out a separate interrogation of about 100 persons in Male. Combing operations by the Indian forces in cooperation with the NSS are still on.

The cargo vessel 'Progress Light' used by the mercenaries to flee from the island after the arrival of the Indian troops capsized this morning before it could be towed to Male. An official spokesman said in New Delhi this evening that the occupants of the ship, which had been

badly damaged, had been transferred to 'INS Godavari.' The mercenaries handed over 20 rifles, ammunition, and some grenades to the Indian naval personnel. News agency reports had earlier said that the cargo vessel had already reached Male.

Indian Troops To Extend Stay

BK0811090088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] The ambassador of Maldives to the United Nations, Mr Hussain M. Mustafa, has said the Indian forces will remain in the island nation till all those involved in the abortive coup are rounded up. In a statement circulated at a news conference at the UN headquarters last night, he expressed his country's deep appreciation for India's timely military assistance to thwart the attempted coup on Thursday.

Mr Mustafa also said the United States and the Britain were approached for help. They too remained in close touch with the Maldives till the situation was brought under control by Indian troops. He said that two Maldivian nationals were directing the mercenaries when they launched their attack and both have been arrested.

The condition of the Maldivian transport minister, Mr Ahmed Mujuthaba, who is under going treatment in Trivandrum, is today described as stable. Mr Mujuthaba was rescued from mercenaries and admitted to the military hospital in Trivandrum.

Arms, Ammo Seized in Male

BK0811125688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] The Indian naval ship, 'INS Godavari,' is due to dock in Male today. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that movement of the ship is slow because of heavy monsoon wind.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said interrogation of the mercenaries is continuing on board the ship.

Answering a question, the spokesman denied an agency report from the Maldives capital that the Indian Navy is maintaining surveillance over a second ship or boat suspected to be carrying some of the mercenaries involved in last week's unsuccessful coup attempt. He said there is no truth in the report.

The spokesman said that a number of arms and large quantities of ammunition have been seized from the arrested mercenaries in Male. These include AK-47 rifles, rocket propelled grenade bombs, carbines, radio sets and transmitters.

Pakistan

Saudi Armed Forces Chief Meets President 7 Nov

BK0711154388 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] The chief of the general staff of the Saudi Armed Forces, General Muhammad Salih al-Hammad, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. They exchanged views on the regional situation and other matters of mutual interest. General Muhammad Salih conveyed to the president good wishes of the custodian of the two holy shrines, King Fahd, which the president warmly reciprocated.

The Saudi Armed Forces chief also met Defense Minister Mahmud A. Haroon in Rawalpindi today. They discussed matters of common interest, particularly the cooperation between the Armed Forces of the two friendly countries.

President Attends USSR National Day Reception

BK0811053788 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan attended a reception hosted by the Soviet ambassador in Islamabad yesterday evening on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the October Revolution. Congratulating the ambassador on the occasion of the Soviet national day, the president asked him to convey his greetings and best wishes to the chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, Mikhail Gorbachev, and to the government and people of the Soviet Union.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and General Mirza Aslam Beg, Army chief of staff, also attended the reception.

Ordinance Requires Identity Card at Polls

BK0711153788 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] The president has promulgated an ordinance further amending the People's Representation Act 1976. Under the ordinance, no election ballot paper will be issued and handed to any person unless and until he presents an identity card, issued under the National Registration Act, to the polling officer or the presiding officer. After he has shown the identity card, the polling officer or the presiding officer will punch the card to ensure that the ballot paper has been issued to the voter.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Denies Involvement in Maldives Coup Bid

BK0811035888 Hong Kong AFP in English 0348 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Colombo, Nov 8 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Tuesday denied involvement in last week's bloody coup attempt in Maldives.

In a statement to Western news agencies here, the LTTE said it "wishes to deny categorically that it was in anyway involved in the attempted coup."

"We are disappointed to note that some sections of the international media have attempted to implicate our organisation in the current crisis in the Maldives," it said. "We are not in anyway involved in the problem."

Mercenaries who took part in Thursday's coup bid against President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom have been said to be Sri Lankans, mostly former members of Tamil militant groups.

India's high commissioner (ambassador) here, Jyotindra Nath Dixit, had Sunday described the mercenaries as Sri Lankan Tamils, Moslems and "perhaps a few Sinhalese", but denied the LTTE was linked to the takeover bid.

Maldives Foreign Minister Fathullah Jameel alleged in Male earlier Sunday that another Tamil rebel group, the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), was involved in the coup attempt.

A PLOTE spokesman denied the charge, but Tamil sources admitted that several ex-PLOTE members had taken part in the coup attempt.

The LTTE has rejected a 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord, which sought to end a Tamil separatist campaign in this island, and is current fighting Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka's north and east under the agreement.

'Political Prisoners' Escape From Detention Camp

BK0611151488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1503 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Colombo, Nov 6 (AFP)—An unspecified number of political prisoners have escaped from a maximum security detention camp in southern Sri Lanka, a police spokesman here said Sunday [6 November]. Police sources said up to 80 men may have escaped.

Suspected members of the anti-government Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) made their way to freedom from the Pelawatte camp through a 200 metre (yard) tunnel dug over several months, the spokesman said.

He said the exact number of escapees and their date of escape was not known, adding that prison officials had yet to take a head count.

"Officers have been threatened with death if they come into the cells for a roll call. This is a serious problem," a police officer in the area said.

The news of the Pelwatte escape came as some 2,000 petty criminals in the country's main jail here rioted and took over their kitchen and workshops, driving away the guards, officials said.

"Many have broken out of their cells. We can't put them back," an official at the Welikada prison said. He said the men were demanding the resignation of the government.

Prison Violence, Colombo Situation Noted

BK0711095388 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0910 GMT 7 Nov 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 7 (LANKAPUVATH)—Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that some prisoners at the Welikada jail in Colombo threw a Molotov cocktail inside the premises this morning and a sector of the prisoners caused some disturbances. However, the police and security forces quelled the disturbances and to do so they were forced to use tear gas.

The sources said the situation had been brought under control and no prisoners had escaped. The sources warned the public against false rumors that are being spread by subversives. Strict orders have been given to the police and military to deal swiftly and firmly with any person or persons trying to disrupt the normal lives of the people.

Meanwhile, government and mercantile offices, banks, shops and markets were open this morning. Attendance was reported to be satisfactory despite a depleted public transport service. Police told LANKAPUVATH that the situation in the city was normal.

Oil Workers' Strike Hits Fuel Supplies

BK0811055888 Hong Kong AFP in English 0553 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Colombo, Nov 8 (AFP)—Motorists were stranded here Tuesday as striking petroleum workers failed to respond to a government call to report for duty, officials here said. State television repeated a government announcement cancelling a special holiday to Ceylon Petroleum Corporation employees Tuesday, a day after thousands of oil workers went on strike. At the few gas stations here which had stocks, car queues extended over a kilometer (mile), witnesses said, while reports from provinces said transport was totally paralysed with fuel depots shutting down.

The petroleum workers' action came apparently in response to a call for a three-day strike beginning Monday from the Sinhalese militant Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP or People's Liberation Front) to force the government to resign. It was the second strike in a week called by the JVP, which is violently opposed to President Junius Jayewardene's 11-year-old government. The

group is primarily demanding the dissolution of Parliament. Mr. Jayewardene in a statement Monday said he would consider dissolving Parliament if JVP Supremo Rohana Wijeweera agreed to serve in an interim cabinet. There was no immediate response from the JVP to Mr. Jayewardene's offer.

Tuesday is a special religious holiday only for government departments, but most private businesses and offices remained closed, residents said. Life was seriously disrupted in most of southern, central and western Sri Lanka, where the majority Sinhalese who form the JVP's main support base line, reports said. Government buses were off the streets for the second day Tuesday, residents outside Colombo said.

A military spokesman here said the final death toll in putting down a prison mutiny Monday was less than feared at first. Earlier, police and officials at Welikada prison put the death toll at 12. "Only two inmates perched on tree tops were killed in the army shooting. But when troops exploded stun-grenades many fell unconscious and they would have been counted as dead," the spokesman added.

2 Indian Soldiers, 7 'Terrorists' Killed

BK0711094988 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0921 GMT 7 Nov 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 7 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—Two IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] soldiers and seven terrorists were killed in the last two days, according to security reports received today. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that one Indian soldier was killed when terrorists activated a claymore mine at Kopai North, Jaffna, yesterday. The sources said that terrorists lobbed a grenade at some Indian troops in Trincomalee Saturday, killing one soldier.

The sources also said that at Paranthan in the north, terrorists yesterday exploded five improvised explosive devices along the railway track injuring three IPKF soldiers. In the shoot-out that followed, five terrorists were killed.

In the northern Vavuniya sector, the IPKF ambushed and killed two terrorists, injured one and seized one rifle. At Vavunikulam in Trincomalee, Indian troops shot and injured one terrorist and recovered 1 pistol, 42 rounds of small arms ammunition, 6 grenades, 1 claymore mine, 1 mortar bomb and 90 kilograms of gelatine.